



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Vancity
Community Foundation

Territorial Acknowledgement

Vancity Community Foundation's offices are located at 312 Main, a centre for social and economic innovation and a project of our Foundation.

312 Main is located on the territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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On the cover La Boussole's dedicated volunteers prepare to distribute hampers outside 312 Main to area residents. [Read more](#) about La Boussole in this report.

Message from the Board and Executive Director



VINSON LUU
Board Chair

We are pleased to share our 2020 Annual Report with you, a reflection of our work in collaboration with the many community organizations, donors and partners, including Vancity credit union, that advance financial inclusion, affordable housing, racial justice and Reconciliation in our communities.

In 2020 and into 2021, the work of our community partners has been absolutely critical to addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had a disproportionately negative impact at the intersections of social economic status, gender, education and race, with historically marginalized communities experiencing higher rates of unemployment, inadequate housing and fewer opportunities to work safely from home. We've been proud to support many grassroots partners and community organizations who

have worked tirelessly to address immediate needs and identify longer-term solutions during this time.

This period has also spotlighted the devastating and ongoing legacy of systemic racism and colonialism in profound and deeply troubling ways. As a charitable foundation, we are called upon to reflect on our own institutional practices and systemic barriers and we align with Vancity credit union's [commitments to anti-racism and Reconciliation](#), including support of the 50-30 Challenge and Black North Initiative. We continue to listen and learn while undertaking the ongoing work to embed social justice and equity deeply in everything we do.

As we accelerate our efforts in allyship to be better collaborators and partners, we continue to mobilize community capital in creative ways to deepen our impact. Some of the highlights in our 2020 Annual Report of our work together include:

- In collaboration with our partners, we distributed \$37.8 million for housing stability, homelessness prevention and pandemic response – a 171% increase over our 2019 grants.
- Our donors contributed to Collective Giving campaigns to support COVID-19 response, anti-racism initiatives and Reconciliation.
- 312 Main re-opened quickly to support member organizations as they found new ways to provide vital services to the community.

- BC Rent Bank and its provincial partners provided critical housing security for renters. With the opening of five new rent banks, access to services extended to 91% of renters across the province.

While the Foundation and community responded to the pandemic, the climate crisis continued to escalate, with extreme heat compounding the pandemic's disruptive social and economic impact. Our province was literally on fire as the writing of this report was underway. Going forward, we will work closely with Vancity credit union to develop climate solutions that start with equity and Reconciliation at their core. We share in Vancity's commitment to [climate justice](#) that puts people at its centre and leaves no one behind.

The challenges are many, but we know that collectively we can find solutions. After 32 years, we still believe that together, more is possible.

As we look to 2021 and beyond, we are deeply grateful for the wisdom, dedication and creativity of our partners, donors and other supporters, as we move forward together to build a sustainable, just and equitable world.

ALLISON FELKER
Interim Executive Director

VINSON LUU
Board Chair

Our Approach

We believe that if all our assets are invested in building healthy communities where co-operative principles and practices flourish and where social justice and environmental sustainability are enhanced, our communities will prosper.

Vision We work together with Vancity credit union, donors and community partners towards a vision of redefining wealth.

Mission Our mission is to be a catalyst for community change, helping communities thrive and prosper by using and leveraging financial tools and providing direct support to community organizations in innovative ways.

Financial Highlights as of December 31, 2020*

TOTAL ASSETS	\$97,397,186
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED	
Unrestricted Contributions	\$786,146
Community Projects and Partnerships	\$33,823,732
Restricted Flow-Through	\$4,476,901
Restricted Donor Advised Funds	\$2,475,717
DISBURSEMENTS & EXPENSES	
Grants	\$37,791,421
Community Projects and Partnerships	\$6,191,957
Management and Administration	\$1,481,253

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

Towards Reconciliation

We acknowledge, with deep respect and gratitude, that our offices are situated on the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, who have been custodians of this land for thousands of years.

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

2020 By the Numbers

Our communities become stronger when we build capital together.



1,586

Individual donors contributing to community well-being



\$5,474,840

Total donations to the Foundation



\$37,791,421

Total grants distributed to the community



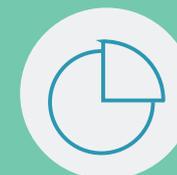
\$97,397,186

Total assets at the end of the period



\$4,911,705

Total Foundation assets invested directly in impact



8%

Percentage of Foundation assets invested directly in impact



\$9.36M

Total granted through 18 loans to community housing projects from the Vancity Affordable Housing Accelerator Fund held at GVCAF

Mobilizing Community Capital

We invest for impact, using all of our tools and resources to maximize community benefit. We do this by investing endowed capital in socially responsible investments as well as making direct impact investments in mission-driven projects and organizations that support and serve our community.

We accelerate impact further through our affiliated non-profit society, the Greater Vancouver Community Assistance Foundation, which provides funding, financing and loan guarantees for affordable housing, social purpose real estate and social enterprise initiatives that may not fit within the Canada Revenue Agency's definition of "charitable activities."

We mobilize community capital through our fundraising initiatives, grantmaking programs and our donor advised funds. We also find ways to support the philanthropy of other community organizations and partners by enabling them to leverage our philanthropic tools.

Investing

Our Foundation works to ensure that every dollar is managed, distributed and invested for positive community impact. This includes the capital of our donor advised funds, from which 10% is invested in impact and 90% is invested through our investment partner, Vancity Investment Management, in a balanced portfolio grounded in the principles of [Socially Responsible Investing](#).

In addition to the screens applied through the principles of Socially Responsible Investing, Vancity Investment Management monitors environmental, social and governance factors and uses shareholder advocacy to engage company management. For example, following more than a year of dialogue, Vancity Investment Management successfully influenced TD Canada Trust and Scotiabank to [ban the financing of Arctic oil and gas projects](#). Read Vancity Investment Management's [shareholder engagement report](#) to learn more.

Performance of the Vancity Investment Management Portfolio

To December 31, 2020 • Primarily Donor Advised Fund Capital

	3 MO	1 YR	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR
Vancity Community Foundation	8.44%	18.02%	10.42%	9.26%	7.56%
Benchmark	4.67%	7.55%	6.81%	6.90%	5.77%

*Benchmark: 30 Day T-Bill 5%, DEX Universal Bond Index 45%, TSX Index 42.5%, S&P 500 Index C\$ 7.5%

Investments by Type

Vancity Community Foundation

Socially Responsible Investments (VCIM)	\$54,638,672
Impact Investments	\$4,911,705
Total Investments:	\$59,550,377

Greater Vancouver Community Assistance Foundation

Short-Term Financial Instruments	\$5,000,000
Affordable Housing Accelerator Fund Loans	\$15,549,543
Other Impact Business Loans	\$1,303,487
Total Investments:	\$21,853,030

TOTAL \$81,403,407

Impact Investing to Accelerate Community-Owned Affordable Housing

In close partnership with Vancity credit union, our Foundation makes ongoing investments to build the capacity of community organizations and redevelop their affordable housing portfolios to increase housing availability and security in the region. This includes providing grants and support for early-stage project planning, as well as accessible financing for acquisition and pre-development costs.

Together with Vancity, in 2020 we expanded the Vancity Affordable Housing Accelerator Fund to continue to meet the growing need for affordable housing development. The Fund also provides an impact investment opportunity for institutional and individual investors interested in using their capital to support affordable housing, while still generating a reliable financial return.

In 2021 we secured \$4.2 million in new investments in the form of loans to the Accelerator Fund, including \$3.2 million from our donor advised fund endowment and \$1 million from three individual investors, growing the total capital available to \$17 million.

By providing easy-to-access affordable loans that support the most intensive stages of development when capital can be hard to find, the Accelerator Fund continues to fill a critical gap for community housing organizations that are developing affordable rental housing. These loans help ‘de-risk’ a project and allow organizations to secure the necessary approvals and financing to move into construction.

In 2020, 18 new loans totalling \$9.3 million in financing were issued to 13 community-owned affordable housing projects, contributing to 1619 new affordable rental homes for low- and moderate-income seniors, families, women and children and people with disabilities.

Grantmaking

Whether through donor advised funds, strategic initiatives and partnerships or inventive new collaborations, we support community organizations to explore, plan, develop and deliver programs that invest directly in building healthy communities.

Equalizing Opportunities, a three-year funding program established in 2018 with an anonymous donor, builds on our work supporting economic inclusion and social justice. The program supports grassroots initiatives and community organizations whose work is directed at

breaking the cycle of intergenerational disadvantages in the Metro Vancouver region. Through Equalizing Opportunities, 26 initiatives were supported in 2020 including:

- The renovation of Aunt Leah’s House: [Aunt Leah’s Foundation](#) provides shelter to teen moms who are in or coming out of the foster care system who are at risk of losing their babies to foster care.
- The Bridges program: [Archway Community Services](#) supports at-risk youth under 25 who are aging out of government care with individualized assistance and support to successfully transition into adulthood.
- Fatherhood is Honor: [Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society](#) is a facilitated men’s group that encourages discussion, healing and skills development that can be applied to parenting, anger management and daily life. The grant also supported the Homework and Culture Club, a program for children ages 7-12 to strengthen Indigenous families and promote reading skills.

In addition, Equalizing Opportunities staff connected with community partners to understand their needs during the pandemic and provided 11 grants to help lessen the immediate and longer-term impacts of the crisis for youth, families and children.

By providing more than **\$26 million** in financing between **2011** and **2022** to **58** community-owned housing projects, the Vancity Affordable Housing Accelerator Fund has contributed to the development of **4,000** new affordable homes.

The Accelerator Fund in Action:

Brightside Community Homes Foundation

With 26 buildings that provide more than 900 homes, Brightside has the ambitious goal of doubling the number of affordable homes it provides over the next decade. Some of its current buildings are aging and do not offer the accessibility features often required for seniors aging-in-place.

To meet this goal, Brightside is undertaking a number of redevelopment projects. The Vancity Affordable Housing Accelerator Fund has provided pre-development financing to support planning and the municipal approvals process of several of these projects, including **Loyal Orange Manor** and **Edward Byers House**.

Located on adjacent lots in the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood, this redevelopment will replace the 57 existing units with 157 new units of affordable, secure rental housing for independent-living seniors and people with disabilities.

Brightside is also pursuing Passive House certification for the redevelopment. Passive House is a voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building, which reduces the building's ecological footprint and results in ultra-low-energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling.



Brightside Community Homes Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides safe and secure affordable homes for those struggling to pay market rents—specifically seniors, families and people with disabilities.



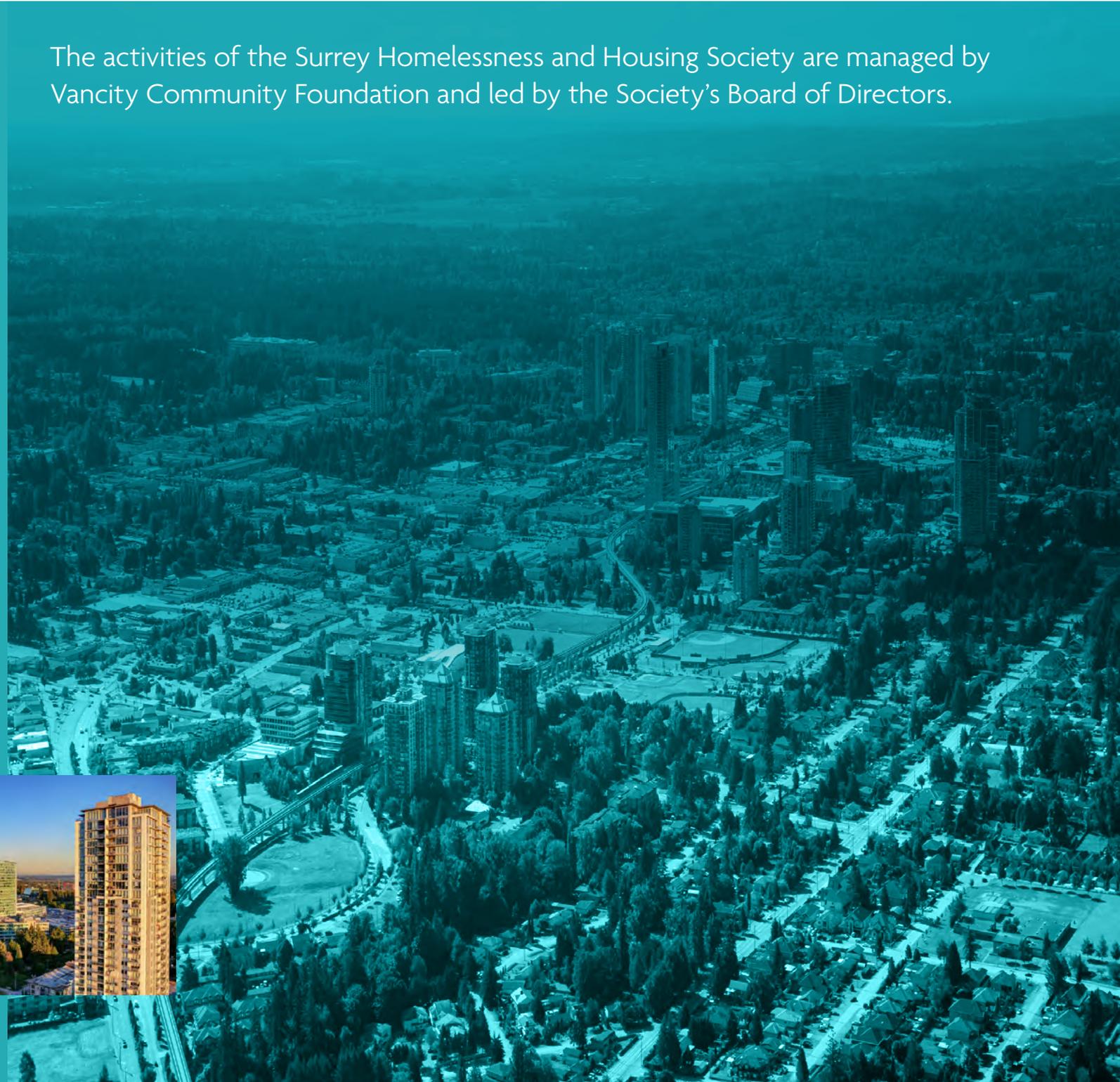
Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society

In 2020, the [Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society](#) mobilized quickly to respond to COVID-19. To help tackle the community's immediate and urgent needs, a number of grants were awarded in the spring. As the pandemic evolved into the fall, the challenges faced by people experiencing and at risk of homelessness in Surrey magnified.

In response, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society launched a second round of funding. A total of \$600,000 was granted in 2020 to 30 projects to implement food programs, purchase necessary safety equipment and supplies, increase staff capacity and create or sustain housing.

In addition, a 10-year, \$3.9 million responsive grant to the City of Surrey was approved for three capital initiatives with long-term impact. The grant will support lease and renovation costs for two shelter facilities: 46 beds at the Olive Branch Shelter and 42 beds at the Cove Shelter, both of which are operated by the [Surrey Urban Mission Society](#), as well as a modular housing project: 40 new units of supportive housing at The Nest, operated by Phoenix Society.

The activities of the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society are managed by Vancity Community Foundation and led by the Society's Board of Directors.



Donor Advised Funds

Donor advised funds, established by individuals, groups, families or organizations, create a lasting legacy to support charities in the community and provide an opportunity to respond to immediate community needs. Donor advised funds also allow our Foundation to manage, invest and mobilize the capital of individual community members for even greater impact.

We are honoured to support all of our [donor advisors](#) in achieving their unique vision.

New Donor Advised Funds

We welcomed the following donor advised funds in 2020:

- **Fairweather Fund** supports organizations in the areas of animal welfare, search and rescue and food security.
- **Black Students in Canada Fund (BSIC)** supports Black students experiencing financial barriers to pursue public post-secondary education.
- **Lepawsky Family Fund** supports individuals with barriers to employment, as well as social enterprises and local farming cooperatives.
- **Sandra Agar-Hutty Fund** supports organizations that work to help women fleeing violence, children and animals.
- **Don and Susan Smith Fund** supports organizations in the areas of theatre and the arts, social justice and poverty reduction.
- **Barb and John Taylor Fund** supports animal welfare and wildlife conservation, as well as organizations in the areas of social justice and women's issues, local theatre and affordable housing.
- **Rippin-Kavelaars Humanitarian Fund** supports refugee families as well as other charitable causes.
- **Sector Equity Alliance for Anti-Racism in the Arts Fund (SEARA)** supports artists who are Black, Indigenous and people of colour facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 and calls on arts funders to address systemic funding inequities.

Donor Advised Funds

\$60,883,398

Assets of donor advised funds as of December 31, 2020



\$4,476,901

New contributions to donor advised funds in 2020



\$2,206,800

Total amount granted in 2020



226

Number of donor advised funds as of December 31, 2020



8

New donor advised funds created in 2020



Black Students in Canada Fund



The Knowledge, Education and Training Canada Fund is based on the premise that post-secondary education should be affordable and accessible to all.

When protests supporting the Black Lives Matter

movement shook the world in 2020, Sunil Singal and some of his fellow volunteers at the Fund were moved to take action.

“Systemic anti-Black racism perpetuates inter-generational poverty and the limited funding available for Black students to continue their education further entrenches that cycle,” said Singal, one of the co-founders of the new fund. “After listening, reading and reflecting, we knew we wanted to create something that would have a long-term impact.”

They set up a crowd-funding campaign to establish [Black Students in Canada](#), a new donor advised fund with the goal of raising a minimum of \$125,000 and disbursing \$5,000 in grants each year for recipients to dedicate to post-secondary education and training.

“After a year of hard work, we were able to provide a grant for a deserving student attending Vancouver Community College this past year,” Singal continued. “We look forward to continuing to grow the fund in the upcoming years and partnering with organizations run by and for the Black community.”

Supporting Philanthropy

Our Foundation is proud to support individuals and other organizations in their efforts to mobilize community capital, whether through our online giving platforms, donor advised funds or philanthropic services such as the donation of Vancity Visa reward points.

Collective Giving

In response to the pandemic, our Foundation established a Collective Giving opportunity for our donor advised funds to mobilize a response to critical community needs. Together, they supported 13 primarily grassroots organizations with \$88,000 of collective raised funds.

The Collective Giving pool committed an additional \$20,000 to support organizations that promote social and economic inclusion and combat racism, including Ethos Lab, the Hogan's Alley Society, Skookum Lab and the Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services.

Giving by Vancity Members

Our Foundation is proud to support Vancity credit union to make charitable giving readily available to members. We do this in a number of ways, including hosting the [Vancity Humanitarian Fund](#), processing donations directly from members through their online accounts and administering the Vancity Visa rewards points donation program. In each case, tax receipts are issued to the member for their donation and a grant is made on their behalf to a charity they designate or cause they believe in.

In 2020,
we processed more than
645
Visa Points contributions totaling
\$81,179
which together supported more than
40
organizations.



Sector Equity for Anti-Racism in the Arts Fund



Sector Equity for Anti-Racism in the Arts (SEARA) was created in 2020 by BC arts organizations and other sector leaders to call for mutual aid and accountability in the arts. Vancity Community Foundation is a SEARA Community Fund Partner,

hosting its donor advised fund to enable the collection of donations through our online platform.

Artists who identify as Black, Indigenous or racialized (BIPOC) face limited opportunities to present their work, are paid less on average for their artistic work and are hired less frequently by arts institutions than their non-racialized contemporaries. And they are under-represented in leadership roles, which perpetuates this inequity.

To simultaneously provide pandemic support and call out systemic racism and the inadequacy of current arts funding models, SEARA launched 'Power Share', a COVID-19 relief fund for BIPOC artists in the province.

Seeking funding from non-profit art galleries, film studios and festivals, arts councils and foundations, SEARA seeks to turn industry and public support into tangible action and raised \$500,000 in 2020 with a goal of raising up to \$1 million to provide grants to BIPOC artists facing financial hardship.

Together, More Becomes Possible

We measure our impact by the achievements of our partners and the strength of the communities we build together. In partnership with Vancity credit union, our Foundation has worked to build the trust, respect and collaboration necessary for projects to succeed. Beyond grants and investments, our Foundation provides capacity building opportunities, program administration and advisory services to support and strengthen community partners to respond to our community's most pressing challenges.

Keeping the Doors Open at 312 Main

While we were adapting our own operations to meet the demands of the pandemic, we were also helping our partners find ways to be nimble and responsive.

At [312 Main](#), the Foundation's headquarters and a centre for social and economic innovation located in the Downtown Eastside, it was essential to stay open throughout the pandemic.

"It was because of the organizations in the building and the essential services they provide to vulnerable community members that we worked hard for 312 Main to remain open during the pandemic," said Sean Condon, 312 Main's Managing Director. "It was important to be open and available when the community organizations needed the space."

Staying open required a new approach to creating a space where people could work safely. Operations in the building needed to be revised in order to adhere to the strict public health requirements so that services could continue to be accessed. Once safety measures were in place, both members and community organizations were able to continue their socially distanced in-person activities, when provincial restrictions allowed. Pictured at right, Ethos Lab was able to hold their AI coding labs in the community training rooms on the ground floor of 312 Main.



The 312 Main team quickly found ways to be responsive to members' needs, whether through rent deferrals or flexibility on tenant agreements. Virtual memberships were introduced to keep people connected to their social innovation community. Programming was made available to members to help them adapt to remote work, cope with the stress of COVID-19 and share information and ideas including weekly online conversations around anti-racism and decolonization as well as how to take positive actions on issues of social justice.

La Boussole

One of 312 Main's member organizations, [La Boussole](#), quickly reworked their service model in response to the pandemic. La Boussole supports Francophone community members living in precarious situations in Greater Vancouver and is the only organization in BC offering their range of services en français. La Boussole also provides their services broadly across the Downtown Eastside, not just to Francophone members.

As information produced by the Province of BC or the City of Vancouver is not required to be translated into French, La Boussole ensured the most up-to-date and scientifically sound information on the pandemic was translated. They produced fact sheets that were distributed throughout Greater Vancouver and quickly built a dedicated web page to centralize resources.

But going virtual was not an option for some of their services, particularly for weekly groceries. When their previous location became unavailable due to pandemic restrictions, La Boussole moved their weekly food bank (pictured on the cover of this report) to 312 Main to ensure the continuity of this essential service for area residents. Masks and sanitizer were added to the packages which also included food and hygiene products.

Louise Chaynes, Executive Director at La Boussole, said ensuring continuous service delivery was a struggle in the pandemic. “The Downtown Eastside was so vulnerable to outbreaks that we felt strongly we had to limit the risk from anyone coming outside the community. That meant using all our energy, ingenuity and creativity to adapt while making sure that everyone was safe.”



Lu'ma Native Housing Society and Reaching Home

Lu'ma means “new beginnings” in the Coast Salish language, which is what [Lu'ma Native Housing Society](#) offers the urban Indigenous individuals and families it serves. Since 1980, the Society has dedicated itself to reducing poverty and increasing housing access, availability and stability, as well as advocating for the rights of Indigenous tenants. The Society currently owns and operates 500 units of affordable housing and provides a range of services and programs that work to improve health, education, economic and social outcomes for Indigenous individuals and families, including youth and elders.

For more than 20 years, Lu'ma Native Housing Society has also partnered with the Government of Canada and the urban Indigenous community to manage the Indigenous stream of the [Reaching Home](#) program in Greater Vancouver and provincially. The program delivers funding to Indigenous-led organizations who serve the needs of Indigenous peoples experiencing or facing risk of homelessness.

Indigenous people are significantly over-represented in homelessness numbers. Thirty-three percent (33%) of people surveyed during the 2020 Greater Vancouver Homeless

Count identified as Indigenous, yet Indigenous people make up only 2.5% of the Greater Vancouver population. Indigenous people are 13.2 times more likely to experience homelessness than their presence in the general population would predict. Reducing Indigenous homelessness is one of the primary goals of the Reaching Home program.

When Lu'ma Native Housing Society approached us to join them in their application to become the Community Entity for the Greater Vancouver Designated Community, we embraced the opportunity to continue to be involved in

Reaching Home as their partner. We had worked with Metro Vancouver to support Reaching Home and acted as the Community Entity in 2019.

On April 1, 2020, Lu'ma became the first Indigenous-led organization to serve as the Community Entity for a Designated Community in Canada.

When Lu'ma and the Foundation began our new partnership, it was not in the way we had planned or expected. With the onset of COVID-19 and the lockdown



in mid-March, our partnership began with an immediate response to support the most critical needs and challenges for people facing homelessness and the organizations serving them.

The Government of Canada acted swiftly to make funding available through the [Reaching Home program](#) to address the impacts of the pandemic among people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

During the year, Lu'ma Native Housing Society and the Foundation's Reaching Home team worked closely with the Reaching Home Community Advisory Board to consult with the community to identify the most pressing needs and priorities and to provide access to the necessary funding. Overall, the program allocated \$22 million in COVID Economic Response Funding to support close to 120 unique projects in 2020.

The immediate needs and challenges of organizations providing homelessness services during the pandemic were extensive:

- Access to food and other basic needs for people facing homelessness or in supportive housing was limited as programs and businesses closed or reduced capacity to accommodate social distancing restrictions. Reaching Home funding supported organizations to provide food baskets, grocery gift cards and other basic needs to individuals and families in need.
- With reduced capacity of shelters and housing providers, resources were needed to find and pay for temporary accommodation for homeless individuals and families, as well as for those needing to self-isolate.
- To meet public health requirements while continuing to provide needed services, organizations required financial support to modify their facilities and programs. This included creating outdoor spaces, offering mobile services, installing plexiglass barriers and signage and other renovations to facilities.
- Personal protective equipment as well as cleaning supplies were desperately needed by organizations to ensure the safety of employees and clients. Funding supported organizations to acquire and distribute the necessary equipment and to pay for costs related to cleaning and sanitation.
- Many service organizations needed support to pivot their services to online, whether it was to purchase equipment such as computers, tablets or cell phones for their staff and clients, or to develop online tools/platforms to support remote service delivery.
- Organizations required additional funding to support increased staffing costs associated with hiring more workers, providing hazard pay and other financial support to employees and over-time costs required to accommodate shifting work patterns and changing environments.



33% of people surveyed during the [2020 Greater Vancouver Homeless Count](#) identified as Indigenous, yet Indigenous people make up only 2.5% of the Greater Vancouver population.

We are honoured to be working with and learning from Lu'ma Native Housing Society and the Reaching Home program.

Demonstrating Value and the Common Approach to Impact Measurement

The Demonstrating Value Initiative, led by the Foundation, assists social enterprises, non-profit and public programs, social ventures and community investors to track and express their impact. Originally built around the specific needs of social enterprise, today Demonstrating Value's tools, resources and research are relevant to anyone interested in social change and innovation.

This past year, a new [website](#) was launched with updated resources, including new 'Getting Started' toolkits and a toolkit specific to organizations working to address homelessness. Demonstrating Value's resources are now aligned with the [Common Approach to Impact Measurement](#), a national standard for impact measurement.

The team developed two new virtual workshops that were piloted in the fall of 2020: Measurement that Makes Sense and Snapshot Design: Dashboards, Impact Reports and Infographics. Twenty-one sessions were held virtually, with more than 500 participants from community-based organizations across Canada. In late 2020, organizations also benefitted from one-on-one support to improve their measurement capacity.

The Foundation partnered with other organizations to host the workshops including 312 Main, Reaching Home, the Canadian Environmental Network, YWCA Canada, Chilliwack Healthy Communities and the Canadian Women's Foundation.

"Thank you again for a fantastic workshop, discussion and resources! The information was practical and inspiring to say the least. We got some great feedback from our members who really liked how useful, concrete and practical the material was."

ANA GIOVANETTI

Canadian Environmental Network
(HOST WORKSHOP PARTNER)



BC Rent Bank

Renters all across BC remained in stable housing this past year because they were able to access the services of the [BC Rent Bank](#).

Established with funding provided by the Province of BC in 2019, BC Rent Bank is a project of Vancity Community Foundation. Through small interest-free loans, rent banks help provide housing stability for renters in low- to moderate-income households who are unable to pay rent or utilities due to unanticipated expenses or emergencies. These loans were vital as a homelessness prevention tool during the pandemic.

With these tools in place, rent bank services were expanded and five new sites were opened last year. Renters in low- to moderate-income households in Burnaby, Langley, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, North Okanagan (including Armstrong, Enderby and Vernon), Columbia Shuswap (including Salmon Arm, Revelstoke and Golden), Central Okanagan (including Kelowna, West Kelowna, Lake Country and Peachland) and the Nanaimo Region (Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum Beach and Lantzville) were able to access rent bank services in their communities.

BC Rent Bank secured an additional \$256,850 from Reaching Home, Canada's homelessness strategy, allowing Metro Vancouver rent banks to support vulnerable households with housing loss prevention grants to prevent eviction and secure safe housing during a uniquely difficult time.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, BC's rent banks provided financial assistance impacting 1627 people through 642 loans and/or grants. In addition, 4993 applicants received supplemental supports including referrals to food banks, counselling, financial literacy support, landlord mediation and advocacy.

Carl's Story

Carl Pendleton has a new lease on life. He's on the other side of leukemia and a life-saving bone marrow transplant for which he had a thirty percent chance of survival. That was two and a half years ago.

Today, Carl is cancer free and also eight months on from heart surgery. He works part-time driving a truck for a concrete-mixing company on the Sunshine Coast, where he's lived since the early 80s.

After an extended stay at Vancouver General Hospital, Carl returned home to financial hardship. "I had exhausted any kind of resources that I had. I was just getting onto my disability benefits, but they weren't enough to take care of all my bills and, because I was so sick, I couldn't work. I kept falling behind."

"I wasn't sure what I was going to do and then somehow I came across the rent bank in Sechelt," he says.

The rent bank is operated by the non-profit Sunshine Coast Community Services Society and serves people from Langdale to Egmont, and Carl is certain that it was what kept him housed during his recovery.

"I was going through such a rough time. I was really lost and they were there for me. I had nowhere else to go and didn't know what to do," Carl remembers.

Throughout all of these challenges, Carl has remained housed in a mobile home park in Gibsons. He pays \$470 a month for the pad rental, while the trailer where he sleeps is being lent to him by extended family.

Carl's income is now stable and he has fully repaid his \$1,300 loan from the Sunshine Coast Community Services Society's rent bank. He accomplished that by making \$55 monthly payments over 24 months.

And Carl knows the Sunshine Coast Community Services Society is happy to help again should he ever need it. "I have been very lucky," he says. "I haven't had to do that."





Investing in Brighter Futures Surrey – the Canada Learning Bond

Investing in Brighter Futures Surrey is an initiative of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition and delivered in partnership with DIVERSEcity, the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association and the Métis Nation of BC and hosted by Vancity Community Foundation.

The program's intent is to increase uptake of the *Canada Learning Bond* for eligible newcomers, First Nations, Inuit and Métis children.

Provided by the federal government, the Canada Learning Bond provides a contribution of up to \$2,000 to an RESP for children from low-income families for their post-secondary education.

Engaging families previously meant educational marketing materials, one-on-one meetings, culturally specific events and workshops. This past year, these efforts quickly pivoted from in-person to virtual sessions with families through online platforms and phone calls.

Staff from partnering organizations create personalized plans for each of the diverse families that they serve. This often means helping families navigate government processes they may not have encountered before. For example, to access the funding, children must have a social insurance number. Through the Canada Learning Bond project, families were able to access computers and received step-by-step support in a variety of languages throughout the application process.

About Us

Board of Directors



Vinson Luu
Chair



Khelsilem
Director



Jonathan Fowlie
Director



Shona Mcglashan
Director



Rita Parikh
Director

Khelsilem and **Rita Parikh** joined the Vancity Community Foundation Board of Directors in 2021.

To learn more about our Board of Directors, please visit: www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/about/board

Staff Leadership Team

Allison Felker
Interim Executive
Director

Sean Condon
Managing Director,
312 Main

Michelle Egli
Manager, Donor
Engagement and Fund
Development

Irene Gannitsos
Senior Manager,
Strategic Initiatives
and Investments

Marie-Genevieve Lane
Senior Accountant

Nancy Melo
Manager,
Administration

For a complete list of Vancity Community Foundation staff, please visit: www.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) or Michelle Egli: [*Michelle_Eggli@vancity.com*](mailto:Michelle_Eggli@vancity.com)

Together more becomes possible.

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BN: 892028242 RR0001

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Write us an email

give@vancity.com

Visit us online

vancitycommunityfoundation.ca



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Vancity Community Foundation