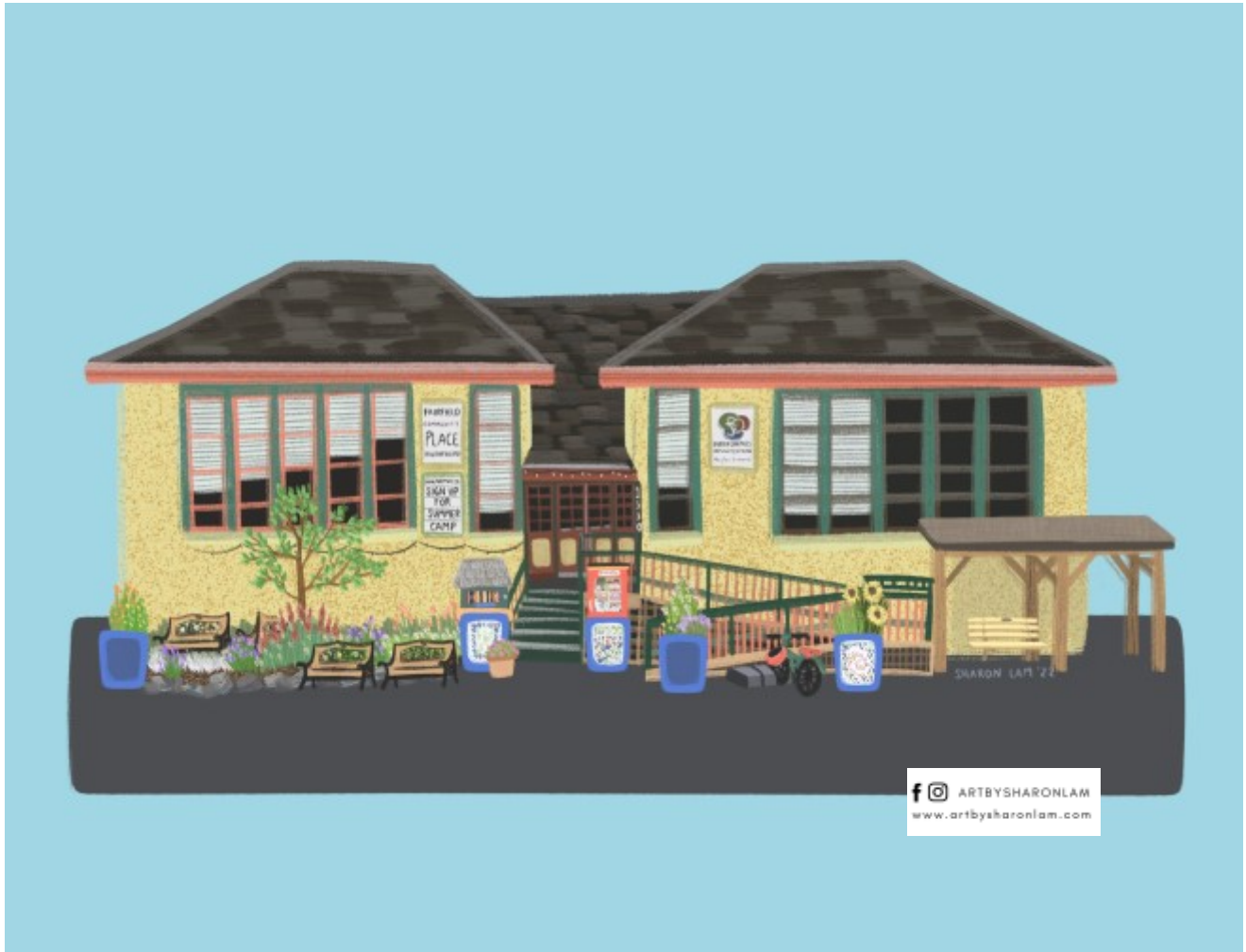




FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

the place to connect



ANNUAL REPORT

***AUGUST 1ST 2021
TO JULY 31ST 2022***

**Annual General Meeting
October 24th 2022**

**www.fairfieldcommunity.ca
place@fairfieldcommunity.ca
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Victoria BC V8S 5J1
250-382-4604**

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association is on the unceded Coast Salish Territories, specifically of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ Peoples.

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FGCA VISION STATEMENT

Fairfield Gonzales is a connected, collaborative, inclusive, welcoming, and sustainable community.

BOARD PRESIDENT

Anna Phelan

It's been a huge honour to represent the FGCA as Board President for the last year, serving Fairfield and Gonzales residents with our extensive, affordable programming and other community services. This year has been marked by a comfortable calmness that has dictated the tone of our operations, which is a welcome change from years past.

In my first year as President, I've come to appreciate more deeply the huge impact the FGCA has on both Fairfield and Gonzales residents, as well as greater Victoria residents at large, in terms of providing invaluable community resources to people in every demographic and economic bracket. One huge achievement to note was our acceptance to participate in the childcare BC \$10 a day daycare project, which has made a significant difference to many families, especially in this time of financial instability. A huge congratulations is owed to Co-Executive Director, Kristina Wilcox, for writing a successful grant application that saw 600+ organizations vying for the 90 spots.

Other events of note were the dedication ceremony for the renaming of Trutch Street to Su'it (pronounced "say-eet" and meaning "truth" in the Lekwungen language), an important step toward furthering reconciliation with the traditional peoples of Vancouver Island; our successful initiative to become a living wage employer; and sending budget priority requests to the City and seeing movement on some important dossiers, such as crosswalk upgrades.

Of course, I'd also like to thank all of our staff, tremendously generous volunteers (including the entirety of the Board) and Executive Directors whose dedicated commitment continues to ensure that the FGCA is a leader in community development and improvement projects.

I cannot stress enough how proud I am to be part of such a supportive, magnanimous and community-focused organization as the FGCA and I hope to be able to continue to represent it.



Renaming of Trutch Street to Su'it

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Vanya McDonell

Kristina Wilcox

This year marked 6 years in our positions as Co-Executive Directors of the FGCA. As we reflect on our time in our roles, we look back with pride and gratitude for the work we get to do and who we get to do it with. And, more specifically, that we have been able to lead this organization together.

We receive many questions about the shared ED model and how it functions. Simply put, we each hold very different operational roles but share responsibilities as they relate to fulfilling the strategic direction of the FGCA and establishing the values and ethics in which we operate and lead.

The 2021-22 year was one of great accomplishments in making life more affordable, and one we are exceptionally proud of! This year was the year the FGCA became a \$10-A-Day Child Care BC Centre and an accredited Living Wage Employer.

February 23, 2022 marked the day we signed our \$10 A Day Child Care BC Centre agreement with the Province of BC. This monumental day for our organization will forever be known as the day our world shifted as a childcare provider. We have pledged a large part of our time to advocating for accessible, equitable and quality child care programs in our community and beyond. Getting the news that we would be able to remove the financial barriers associated with childcare was a moment we will never forget. We always knew that the financial strain of childcare was a large contributing factor to family stress and well-being but there was little we could do about it, until now!

Secondly, one of the most unknown facts about the FGCA is that we employ up to 110 individuals each year. The people of this organization are what make it what it is and, as such, it is essential that we are constantly dedicating our work to improving working life for FGCA employees. In May of 2022, the FGCA became an accredited Living Wage Employer. This means that we pay an hourly wage that is at minimum the benchmark set by Living Wage BC for a family of four to get by in our city. Over the past couple of years, we have all learned that care industry workers are the pillars of our economy. Becoming a Living Wage Employer is a significant milestone on our path to ensuring staff, who hold traditionally undervalued positions, are valued and appreciated for their work.



Kristina Wilcox and Vanya McDonell

BOARD & COMMITTEES

*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PLACE COMMITTEE
STREETLIFE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE
NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LAND USE COMMITTEE*

*BOARD MEMBERS WHO
SERVED IN 2021/2022*

***SCOTT DAVIS
JOANNA FOX
QUINN FLETCHER
ASHLEY FERNANDES
MICHAEL HIRSCH
DON MONSOUR
CAITLIN MCGUIRE
ANNA PHELAN
BRYAN ROWLEY
PHILIP SAWKINS
DAVID THOMPSON
JENNIFER MATTHEWS
DAVID MOLINKSI
BRIAN VATNE
JULIA WARREN
BIANCA WALLACE***

The Board of Directors consists of up to 14 members at any one time. Board members serve two year terms and are elected each year at the AGM by the membership. Board members bring a broad range of perspective and expertise to the FGCA, and provide governance and leadership to the organization. Board members also participate in community development through committee work.

PLACE COMMITTEE

The Place and Programs Committee is an advisory committee that includes Board members, staff, and members of the Association to provide advice and guidance about FGCA programs, and the space we use for our programming. The Committee has provided advice to the FGCA Co-Executive Directors about ensuring that the organization has the space the organization needs to provide services and serve the community, in both the short and long-term. Ongoing efforts to examine possibilities are considered in relation to the organization's strategic goals.

STREETLIFE COMMITTEE

The StreetLife Committee fosters and supports the development and implementation of street, neighbourhood, and community-wide activities and initiatives that reflect the Association's values and objectives. This small group of volunteers builds and strengthens community through participatory, collaborative, and inclusive practices to bring about safe, sustainable, lively and resilient neighbourhoods. In 2022 the group supported the Neighbourhood Yard Sale Day and the Fall Fairfield events and began brainstorming future projects and member recruitment.



Fall Fairfield



Community Yard Sale



The Food Forest in September

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE AND FAIRFIELD FOOD FOREST

At the Fairfield Food Forest this year we have had some great fun and learning in the garden by various community members. We had a school-based program through Sir James Douglas Elementary. In this program classes came out and learned about permaculture, growing food and about indigenous plants. We also had work parties throughout the year where community members came out and helped maintain the garden. The activities included pruning, weeding, planting, feeding with compost, harvesting, and edging the garden beds. People of all ages and abilities participated. A number of areas that need our focus were identified through our work including completing the deer fence, refurbishing the watering system and better signage for easy public use of the space. We are all looking forward to another year of getting outside and working together as a community to maintain this great food resource for everyone's enjoyment.

This year also brought some new projects in the neighbourhood. Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Andrea Fritz engaged volunteers to work on Garry Oak ecosystem restoration in Porter Park, and worked with neighbours of Olive Street Commons to remove invasive species. She also began the planning stages of a new native plant garden at Memorial Crescent. Stay tuned for the installation of this new and exciting amenity!

300+	COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HOURS
100+	EARLY YEARS FOOD FOREST EXPLORATION
200+	STUDENTS LEARNING ABOUT PERMACULTURE
10+	PLANT VARIETIES ADDED

"I love the beautiful nature of the Community Gardens. Sometimes, my kids and I just sit and enjoy the food forest. I like how it's an educational place but we can also come out to the garden and meet our neighbours."

- Food Forest Volunteer

NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Neighbourhood Improvement Committee (NIC) addresses matters relating to the built environment, urban form, transportation, parks, and related matters so as to improve the social and environmental conditions in our neighbourhood. NIC activities are driven by the interests of its members and issues brought forward by the community. NIC membership is open to all community members. Areas of focus this year have been pedestrian safety, transit advocacy, and accessibility improvements and advocacy.

NIC accomplishments this year:

- Gathered input and provided neighbourhood priorities for the City of Victoria annual budget, including transportation priorities, park and greenspace priorities, and other ideas put forward by community members to make our neighbourhood better
- Liaised with residents about dog off-leash parks
- Participated in school streets safety work spearheaded by local Parent Advisory Committees
- Met with BC Transit to successfully advocate for Fairfield Gonzales' inclusion in their next public participation process for the area
- Advocated to the CRD and the province for better transit service in Fairfield Gonzales
- Invited City staff to a walkabout at Clover Point to discuss improving accessibility
- Publicized accessibility problem reporting through ConnectVictoria app to FGCA members

8 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
11 **MEETINGS**

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its legal, ethical, and functional responsibilities by recommending policies and practices. The Governance Committee makes recommendations on Terms of Reference, organizational and Board policies, and constitution and bylaws. The committee also works on Board functions such as recruitment, training, and overall functioning. This year several new members from the community joined and have been lending invaluable perspective and expertise to the work of this committee.

Governance accomplishments this year:

- Brought forward bylaw changes regarding past president role to October 2021 AGM (defeated).
- Drafted new organizational policy on bullying and harassment, accessibility, and social media, and updated compensation policy
- Created Past President job description
- Restructured the Garden Committee from a committee of the board to a community committee
- Updated Board competency, skills, experience and demographics matrix

8 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
10 **MEETINGS**

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LAND USE COMMITTEE (CALUC)

This report represents an approximation of the work the CALUC has done over the year. The CALUC currently has six members: Joanna Fox (Chair), Ashley Fernandes (Vice Chair), Dave Thompson, Owen Sieffert, Michael Hirsch and Don Monsour. Kevin White and Julie Edney stepped down from the CALUC and we thank them for their contributions and knowledge.

The CALUC continues to encourage applicants to engage with the community to get the best development possible for Fairfield Gonzales, whether at formal meetings or in casual discussions, and regularly connects community members with applicants.

Preliminary/community meetings were held either virtually or in a combination of virtual/in-person setup, with more than 80 community members joining one on-line session for a multi-unit development application. Applications ranged from small-house rezoning to duplex/quadplex/multiunit developments. Judging from the number of community responses on the City's development tracker comment option, Fairfield Gonzales residents have strong feelings around land use.

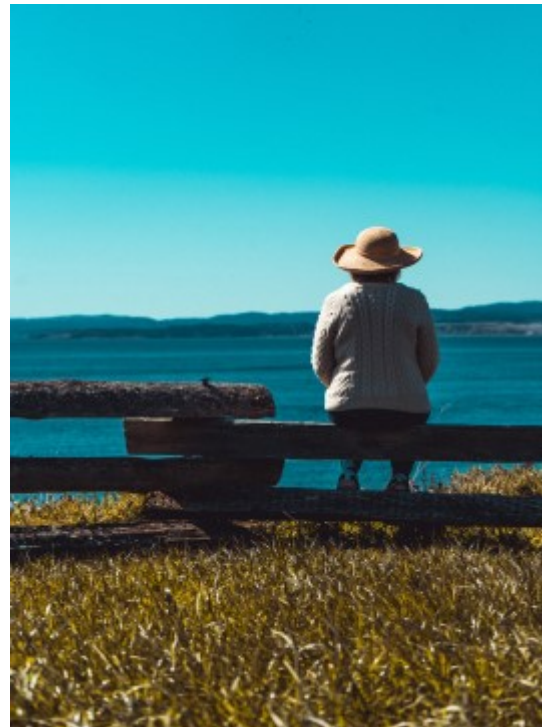
In addition to hearing land use applications, the CALUC:

- added an accessibility lens to its discussions with all applicants and addressed the City's accessible parking bylaw thanks to in-depth research on accessibility by a community member
- was asked by the FGCA's Climate Committee to address climate action issues with applications, such as drought-resistant landscaping
- provided input to the City's Downtown Core Area Plan Design Guidelines
- heard the City's first proposal of a Density Land Transfer Agreement.

The agreement - between The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) which owns Abkhazi Gardens and Aryze - would officially downzone the Abkhazi Gardens lands to a zone that maintains current activities on the site while ensuring the site receives its official heritage designation and protecting it from redevelopment. Aryze proposes to utilize less than 30% of the 35,000 square feet of available density being transferred from the Abkhazi Garden site, for its proposed development, and the balance would be released and secured as a financial donation to TLC

- facilitated a community discussion on ideas for use for a commercial building in Cook Street Village

7 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS 6 COMMUNITY MEETINGS 10 COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Dallas Road

PROGRAMS

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE
CAMPS
HUCKLEBERRY INFANT &
TODDLER CENTRE
CAMAS EARLY YEARS
FAMILY PROGRAMS
MOSS ROCK PRESCHOOL
YOUTH
RECREATION

"Thanks again to the OSC managers and amazing staff for the great school year. We really appreciate the services you guys provide our community and the energy you staff put into our kids!."

- OSC Parent

MARGARET JENKINS OUT OF SCHOOL CARE (OSC)

During the 2021/2022 school year we operated 64 spots for before school care and 119 spots for after school care on Margaret Jenkins school grounds. The biggest challenge during this school year was staffing. While we had excellent leaders, we also had a lot of changes and were short staffed many days. The children and families dealt with all the changes amazingly well but we would have liked more consistency for all the groups. At spring break, we made the difficult decision to close the "Saturna" group of 13 grade 5 and 2 grade 4 children. Luckily, we could offer them spots in our youth program at the Community centre. One leader picked the children up at Margaret Jenkins School and together they took public transit to the Place. This was so successful that we are continuing that model for grade 5 students for the 2022/2023 school year. Despite those challenges we managed to keep our well loved traditions going. The annual carnival, developing theatrical productions, Friday sign up days and the year end water play day were all well attended. Here at MJ OSC we strive to create a safe, fun and supportive environment where kids can play and get exposed to different activities.

FAIRFIELD OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Fairfield OSC saw another successful year of program. With 60 spaces for children to attend in the afternoon and 40 spaces in the morning. Fairfield OSC continues to be in high demand for afternoon care and operates with full registration as well as a handful of families who access the drop-in service on a near daily basis. In the morning, we have 35 children who attend Monday to Friday, which continues to be a consistent number over the past years even though there are registered spaces which have been left unfilled. One of the program highlights for this year was when we were able to implement the new fee structure, capping fees to \$200 a month, which led to many positives for both our parents and to a greater extent, the community at large.



Out of School Care Fun

193	CHILDREN ENROLLED	95
26	STAFF	11
1	MANAGER	1
2	ASSISTANT MANAGER	

CHILDREN ENROLLED
STAFF
MANAGER

CAMPS

The FGCA facilitated Pro-D and Spring Break camps for 40 children on-site at École Margaret Jenkins School as well as Sir James Douglas Elementary. The program is consistently attended at full capacity for all six Pro-D camps as well as the two-week Spring Break program. Summer Camps program were in high demand this year as we were able to introduce the \$10 a day childcare initiative. While this was an exciting development, our capacity of 60 care spaces meant that we were only able to serve roughly a third of our registered school aged population.



Camp Adventures

**80 PRO-D DAY & SPRING
BREAK CAMPERS**
14 STAFF

**465 SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATIONS**
10 STAFF
1 PROGRAM MANAGER

"I wanted to write and say thank you so much for the amazing camps that were offered this summer through your program. I was really nervous about our son having a different program and set of kids each week as change has been difficult for him in the past. We not once encountered resistance from him to go to OSC and in fact given the chance to stay home and help us get ready for vacation this week, he chose camp."

-Parent

FAMILY DROP-INS

FGCA Family programs support and engage primary caregivers to foster a healthy family and community life. The programs provide nutritional support, parenting resources, and age appropriate developmental activities for children and families. The increasingly popular family programs, such as Parent & Tot and Kindergym are great places for learning and socialization for both caregivers and children in a safe, supportive, uninterrupted environment. In addition, our facilitators are the instrument of guidance and support through the sharing of first-hand knowledge and experience.

48 SESSIONS
54 PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS
62 CHILDREN

"I have met parents and caregivers from all different communities and have formed friendships for both myself and the in my care."
- Family Drop-In Participant



Family Drop-In Participant



Youth Participants

YOUTH

The 2020-21 school year was largely about returning children to environments and care as close to those pre-pandemic as possible. This year was about navigating lifting Covid 19 measures as well as expansion in some areas of need. Every other program eventually was able to operate much as they had in 2019, including a one-week spring break camp which had not been run in years.

The most exciting development in Youth Programs this year was the launch of an evening drop-in program on Friday's in January. Greatest of All Time (G.O.A.T.) Zone was successfully launched in January for underserved middle-schoolers in Fairfield and beyond. Intended to fill a gap for middle school-aged youth, this drop-in is *only* for that age group (grades 6-8) and takes place after Chill Zone on Friday nights, 6:30-9:30pm.

Youth Zone is our registered Monday to Wednesday program that involves structured programming. Youth Zone registrations were way up year-over-year, likely because of continued progress through Covid 19 and our influx of children from Margaret Jenkins kids in April.

Chill Zone is our free- or by donation - drop in program for grades 5-8 which takes place on Thursday and Friday. Jump N Start (JNS) is our registered special after school program for youth who have are deemed at risk due to various factors. A Youth and Family Counsellor from their respective school selects them to attend the program.

1,083	CHILLZONE DROP IN PARTICIPANTS
23	YOUTH ZONE PARTICIPANTS
300	JUMP N START PARTICIPANTS
118	G.O.A.T ZONE PARTICIPANTS

HUCKLEBERRY INFANT-TODDLER CENTRE

Huckleberry Infant-Toddler Centre is the youngest care offered by the FGCA, caring for children aged 10 months to 3 years. This program is often the starting point of 'continuity of care' in the same community from the ages of zero to 12 years, for children in our community. Huckleberry program emphasizes building relationships through play and inquiry; to each other, to the community, and to the land. Nature plays a big role in our daily programming and how we can respect our land. Through daily exploring and playing in our natural environments, the children learn about themselves, their peers, and the habitat in which they live.

8 CHILDREN ENROLLED
3 STAFF
2 PRACTICUM STUDENTS

"This is a fantastic program that I'm so grateful to be a part of. The educators and administrators are so supportive and focused on each individual child's progress and are always available and happy to discuss your child's milestones and setbacks. It's a wonderful program."
- Moss Rock Parent



Huckleberry Participants

CAMAS EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Camas Early Years Programs offers care for families with children between the ages of 2.5 and 5 years old. Predominantly focused on outdoor learning, we explore nature and the land. Camas is fortunate to be able to play on the traditional lands of the Lkwungen & Wsanec People. We have become a deeply rooted program that fosters children's experiences in nature to allow for experimentation inquiry and collaborative learning alongside educators. At Camas, we foster an inclusive environment and find ways to create a sense of belonging for those children, families, and educators who attend our program.

15 CHILDREN ENROLLED
3 STAFF
1 PRACTICUM STUDENT

"Both programs are excellent and age-appropriate, thanks for all you hard work!"
- Camas Parent



Camas Participants

MOSS ROCK PRESCHOOL

Moss Rock Preschool is a licensed preschool that runs Monday -Friday from 9 am to 1 pm. We strive to give our students and families an open, welcoming, safe space that helps us grow as a community, as well as respecting the family's individual values while nurturing a child's love of nature, exploration and learning. At Moss Rock, we believe that our environment is one of our greatest educators which is why we practice a play-based, emergent curriculum that is primarily outdoors-focused.

23 CHILDREN ENROLLED
2 STAFF
2 PRACTICUM STUDENTS



Moss Rock Participants

"Great communication, good mix of boundaries but allowing their independence and testing their limits."
- Moss Rock Parent

RECREATION

The FGCA provides a number of children and adult recreation-based registered programs. Recreation programs change at times to ensure we meet the needs of the community. Our recreation programs foster health, life learning, and wellness close to home. This year we continued to follow provincial government guidelines and adapted to ever changing COVID protocols. We were happy to offer more programming with maximum class sizes limited to 75% pre-COVID levels.

Youth Basketball
Richardson Sport Soccer
Children's Creative Dance
Improv Workshop
Beginner Djembe Drumming and Percussion
Cuban Salsa

Hatha Yoga
Iyengar Yoga (All Levels, Beginner, Support & Restore)
Somatic Yoga
SoQi
Zumba
Zumba Toning

***"Having a Zumba class close by gives me no excuse not to get out, get fit and have fun with a few of my friends."
- Zumba Participant***

594 REGISTRATIONS
8 INSTRUCTORS



Yoga Participants

EVENTS & PROJECTS

FALL FAIRFIELD
CHRISTMAS HAMPERS
GENDER GENERATIONS PROJECT
NEIGHBOURHOOD YARD SALE
GET GROWING
COMMUNITY DINNERS
CLOTHING SWAP
REPAIR CAFÉ FAIRFIELD
FOOD SECURITY
ART AT THE PLACE
BOOK CLUB
NEIGHBOURHOOD SOLIDARITY WITH UNHOUSED NEIGHBOURS
OBSERVER NEWSPAPER

FALL FAIRFIELD

Every 3rd weekend of September, we host our annual neighbourhood festival, Fall Fairfield. For an afternoon, over 1000 participants gathered with non-profit vendors, engagement workshops, music and dance performances. Fun, quality memories were created for kids, adults, friends and neighbours. Countless exclamations of “wow, I haven’t seen you in ages!”, to “how have you been?” were heard throughout the day, demonstrating how much our community craved an opportunity to gather as the pandemic was dragging on.

5 MUSIC AND DANCE PERFORMERS
5 ARTS AND CRAFTS VENDORS
1000+ ATTENDEES
21 VOLUNTEERS

“We are always thrilled to attend this event with our family to connect with our neighbourhood, explore the vendors, food and music!”

- Fall Fairfield Attendee



Harvest Hat Making



Lekwungen Dancers

CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPER FUNDRAISER

We fundraised to support Fairfield Gonzales residents in need during the holiday season. To raise more donations, we partnered with a local artist to offer a wreath making workshop. Funds raised were used to purchase gift cards and gifts for families and/or individuals.

\$4,465 **RAISED**
9 **FAMILIES SUPPORTED**

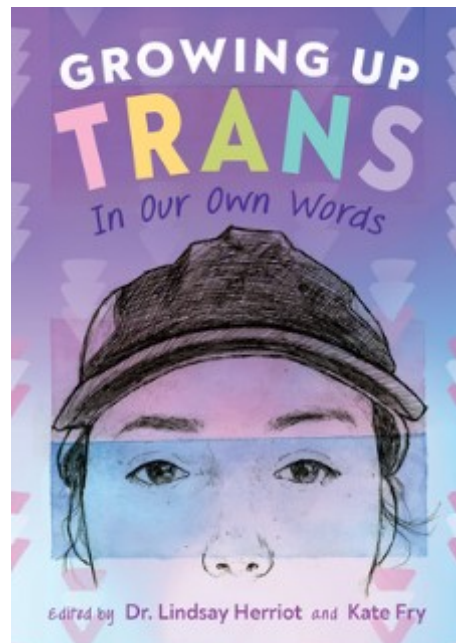


Wreath Making

GENDER GENERATIONS PROJECT

Since 2017 we have worked with local transgender youth and their allies and supporters to help deliver arts-based retreats. These multi-day retreats connect transgender, non-binary, 2-spirit, and gender-diverse youth to adult mentors with lived experience. Leaders create a safe and nurturing environment where youth are free to create, express themselves, and connect with others. Previous projects created by youth at these retreats include an art exhibit at UVic's Legacy Maltwood Gallery and a book, *Growing up Trans: In Our Own Words*, which was published in 2021.

2 **RETREATS**
60 **YOUTH SERVED**



Growing up Trans: In Our Own Words



Samples of Seedlings

NEIGHBOURHOOD YARD SALE

Due to popular demand, this year we were back with our annual Community-Wide Yard Sale! The FGCA provides support with promotion before and during the event. Visitors were able to find a map of vendors both online and in print. Interested vendors also had the chance to rent a table in our parking lot, which was also the location of an Emergency Preparedness booth.

46 REGISTERED SALES
2,500 VISITORS

*"Thank you for putting on the Neighbour hood Yard Sale. It was incentive to get rid of/sell/ donate some unused items from my home."
-Vendor*

GET GROWING! VICTO-

Get Growing! Victoria is a City of Victoria program that provides food seedlings and garden materials to residents in need, including people disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The seedlings are grown in the City's nursery in Beacon Hill Park and distributed in partnership with community organizations. We also received funding to purchase additional supplies including soil, seeds, and pots. The FGCA hosted two events to distribute seedlings and gardening supplies, in the Spring and Summer.

60 FAMILIES SERVED
10 VOLUNTEERS
2,800 SEEDINGS
30 YARDS OF MULCH & COMPOST DISTRIBUTED

COMMUNITY DINNERS

On the second and the last Friday of the month, the FGCA hosted Community Dinners from October to June. Our chef Safia, cooks delicious and nutritious meals inspired by her Middle-Eastern culture. We started during Covid with a take away version and in May as restrictions eased, we began to offer the option of dining in again so that people can continue to meet and connect with other Fairfield Gonzales residents.

15 **COMMUNITY DINNERS**
900 **MEALS**
5 **VOLUNTEERS**

CLOTHING SWAP

On the first Saturday of the month, the community is invited to bring their gently used clothing and swap them for new items. This provides support for families with a limited budget.

8 **SWAPS**
6 **VOLUNTEERS**

REPAIR CAFÉ FAIRFIELD

The Fairfield Repair Café is a local community-based group of volunteers who help the public repair personal goods ranging from household appliances, to tools, toys, jewelry, clothing, furniture, bicycles and anything else you can think of. Anything one can physically bring in is fair game. It comes under the umbrella of the Repair Café organization started in Amsterdam by Martine Potsma in 2009. The intent is to reduce waste, reduce consumption, and pass on repair skills. An important side benefit is bringing the community together, especially finding relevant connections with seniors. After a long hiatus due to the pandemic, Repair Café returned in July 2022.

1 **CAFE HOSTED**
30 **OBJECTS REPAIRED**
10 **VOLUNTEERS**



Repair Café Participants

FOOD SECURITY

Since 2020, the FGCA has significantly increased its food programs to respond to the needs in the community. By partnering with various non-profits, businesses and the City of Victoria, our organization has become a major food hub in the neighbourhood. We have mainly focused on redistributing rescued food to food insecure families, but not only.

Almost every day of the week, rescued perishable and non-perishable food is available at the center. Our twice weekly food distribution programs, along with our outdoor food pantry and indoor freezer are open to anyone who identifies as food-insecure. The donated food comes from The Food Share Network, Starbucks, Coldstar and community members.

In 2021, we have developed our offerings of local food, either grown here or offered by local organizations. Thanks to new partnerships such as Gattton Farms, BC Farmer's Markets Coupons, Backpack Buddies, and older ones like Good Food Box, Gift of Good Food and our Food forest, more families have been able to access food.

Because we know that we cannot offer the variety of food people need every week, we continue to provide grocery gift cards to individuals and families. This way, people are able to purchase meat, fish or gluten-free food for example.

26,057 LBS	RESCUED FOOD
10	VOLUNTEERS
50	FAMILIES SUPPORTED
\$500/WEEK	GROCERY CARDS



Nicole, our volunteer for the Thursday Food Pantry distribution

ART AT THE PLACE

Every other month, Fairfield Community Place's foyer displays local artwork. The community can discover various local artists and even purchase their pieces. In addition to nice décor, this fosters conversations and connectedness to the community.

6 LOCAL ARTISTS

- **RACHEL MARIE**
- **PAULA NASMITH**
- **HEATHER MACNEIL**
- **DAVI ROKEBY-THOMAS**
- **SHARON LAM**
- **DEANNA SKINNER**



The Stormwatcher by Paula Nasmith

BOOK CLUB

FGCA's book club meets once monthly on the last Monday of each month. The group selects books that focus on critical global issues that impact Canadians, contributes to cultural understanding, or an author's lived experiences written by Canadian authors. Two volunteer facilitators guide participants to deepen their understanding of the issues presented in each book through discussion, reflection, and consideration of how culture and diversity affect behaviour, opinions, thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs. The FGCA purchases 2 copies of each month's book for the members to borrow, in partnership with the Cook St Village's *Books and Shenanigans* library.

12	MEETINGS
2	VOLUNTEERS
120	PARTICIPANTS

"Such a pleasure -- beautiful day, spot, discussion and the truly fine Gregor Craigie, gracing us with his presence!"

-Book Club Participant, about a meeting that included a guest author

NEIGHBOURHOOD SOLIDARITY WITH UNHOUSED NEIGHBOURS (NSUN)

This group was created in 2020 as people were moved out of shelters and had to camp in parks. It was originally made of Fairfield Gonzales neighbours, but now includes people from all across town. The purpose of NSUN is to actualize housing justice and inclusive communities throughout Greater Victoria through solidarity and mutual aid. A group of a dozen Victoria housed and unhoused residents gather twice a month to organize help for those who need it. Their meetings are on Zoom or in person, outdoors. The FGCA collects and manages donations through our CanadaHelps page. We also provide them with a Zoom account to use, and help with promotion through our social media accounts. The group is still recruiting new members, contact us for more information.



Volunteer Rose Henry & tenter Tony Bryan



Vanya McDonnell serving hot beverages & food

OBSERVER NEWSPAPER

The Fairfield Gonzales Observer Newspaper is our community newspaper highlighting local stories, businesses and events. It also serves as a guide for all of the programs and services we offer at the FGCA.

4	ISSUES
19 400	COPIES MAILED
600	COPIES PICKED UP



Pippa Davis preparing the Observer for print

SERVICES

VOLUNTEERS
FACILITY RENTALS
YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS

VOLUNTEERS

The FGCA relies on committed, passionate residents to support many of our programs, events and services. Without the support of over 100 volunteers annually, we could not do our work to serve the community. Here are some of the ways folks volunteer with our organization:

Fairfield Food Forest and Community Gardens
Clothing Swap
Food Rescue
Community Dinners
Book Club
Facilities
Observer Newspaper
Photography
Board of Directors
Streetlife Committee
CALUC
Neighbourhood Improvement Committee
Fall Fairfield
Database Support
Climate Action Group
NSUN
Get Growing! Victoria
Good Food Box
Fundraisings

147 ***VOLUNTEERS***
3505 ***VOLUNTEER***

FACILITY RENTALS

Facility rentals opened cautiously to the greater community with a number of COVID restrictions in place. The number of renters more than doubled and total bookings increased by over 30%.



The Garry Oak Room

71 **RENTERS**
869 **BOOKINGS**

YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association employs Youth and Family Counsellors (YFCs) who work onsite at schools in Greater Victoria. YFCs support students' connections to school, family, and peers. They work with students on mental health and social functioning, bring in community services, and provide support to the school community in times of crisis. Many of the organizations that serve vulnerable youth and families are full or difficult to access, and YFCs are often filling this gap for kids who need support. Success can look like keeping students in school, keeping them housed, or teaching them coping skills to manage day to day.

This year we had three new YFC positions from March to June, each serving multiple elementary and middle schools within a 'family of schools.'

These positions showed promise as they were able to connect with families who may have otherwise fallen through the cracks. This model was not renewed for the following year but may help the school district understand how to best deliver support to these schools.

Top concerns that Youth and Family Counsellors are seeing in their schools are:

stress and anxiety, grief and loss, poverty, family conflict, trauma, mental health concerns, social skills challenges, parenting capacity

1,214 **STUDENTS RECEIVED SERVICE**
324 **FAMILIES**
19 **YFCS**
20 **SCHOOLS**

James Bay Elementary
Macaulay Elementary
Victoria West Elementary
Oakland Elementary
Willows Elementary
Margret Jenkins Elementary
Hillcrest Elementary
Torquay Elementary
Campus View Elementary
Frank Hobbs Elementary

Central Middle School
Lansdowne Middle School
Shoreline Middle School
Arbutus Middle School
Monterey Middle School
Gordon Head Middle School

Oak Bay High School
Mount Douglas High School
Esquimalt High School
Lambrick Park High School

WORKING AT THE FGCA

**AUGUST 1ST 2021
TO JULY 31ST 2022**

STAFFING

Our people are the heart of what we do and the numbers reflect this.

**114
EMPLOYEES IN 2021**

**90%
STAFFING COSTS AS % OF
OVERALL EXPENSES**

FUNDING

**REVENUE
\$ 3,569,469 ACTUAL FOR YEAR**

**EXPENSES
\$ 3,599,242 ACTUAL FOR YEAR**

**6%
CITY FUNDING**

**23%
PROVINCIAL & GAMING FUNDING**

**1%
FEDERAL FUNDING**

**40%
SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 CONTRACT**

**28%
FGCA PROGRAMS & RENTAL
REVENUE**

**2%
DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING &
FOUNDATION GRANTS**



FGCA Staff

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FGCA

The FGCA is funded by a diverse range of grants, contracts, and fees-for-service. With the our successful application to become a Childcare BC 10-a-day site, our funding model has shifted substantially from fee for service to government-funded.

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS/FUNDING

BC Gaming

Canada Summer Student Grant

City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grants

City of Victoria Strategic Plan Grant

Victoria Foundation Community Grant: Gender Generations Project

BC Child Care Health and Safety Funding

Tegan and Sara Foundation: Gender Generations Project

Community Food Centres

United Way: Food Security for isolated seniors

Capital Daily Neighbourhood House Initiative

Childcare BC 10-a-day site funding

ViaSport: Youth basketball funding

EHT Increased Employment Incentive Credit

IN-KIND SUPPORT

We also had the support of many generous in-kind donors this year. Their support makes our programs possible!

ColdStar - frozen food donation

FoodShare Network - rescued food

Mustard Seed - Give Food Get Food program

BC Farmers Market - nutrition coupons

Gatton House Farms - fresh produce

Thrifty Foods - grocery gift cards

Starbucks– food donations

DONATIONS

As a registered charity we accept donations for our general work or to fund specific program areas. This year we piloted a Holiday Hamper fundraiser and received many generous donations from people in the neighbourhood who wanted to make a better holiday season for more vulnerable families. We thank each and every donor for their generous contribution to a connected, collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable community!

FUNDING FOR THE FGCA

***FUNDING FOR THE FGCA
IS PROVIDED BY:***

***MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & CHILDCARE
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA
MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
BC GAMING POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT BRANCH
ISLAND HEALTH
CITY OF VICTORIA
SCHOOL DISTRICT #61
VICTORIA FOUNDATION
TEGAN AND SARA FOUNDATION
UNITED WAY GREATER VICTORIA
COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRES
VIA SPORTS***



Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada