



**FAIRFIELD GONZALES**  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*the place to connect*



# ***ANNUAL REPORT***

***AUGUST 1ST 2022  
TO JULY 31ST 2023***

**Annual General Meeting  
October 24th 2023**

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## **FGCA VISION STATEMENT**

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

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*Fairfield Gonzales Community Association*



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

*Vanya McDonell*

*Kristina Wilcox*

2022/23 marked our eighth year as Co-Executive Directors. As we reflect on the past year, we continually come back to the idea of gratitude. We are grateful to be sharing leadership with each other in a relationship of trust, shared values, and mutual respect. We often advocate for this model to other agencies and believe that it has allowed the FGCA to flourish in ways that would not have been possible with a single leader.

We are grateful to be part of an organization that has such a clear and meaningful impact in peoples' lives. The work done by our staff and volunteers can make the difference between an empty and a full belly; between going to work knowing your child is thriving, and not having the quality childcare you need; between finding support through a mental health crisis and being alone. There are so many ways, big and small, that the FGCA makes a difference for people every day.

We are grateful to work and raise our families on these Lekwungen lands. Our neighbourhood of Fairfield Gonzales is a truly special place. It can be seen in the beauty of the ocean, the rocks, and the trees, and the deep connection that the people here feel to this place and to each other.

As we move into our next fiscal year, Kristina will be off caring for her growing family, and we are grateful to welcome Debbie Banerjee into her role for the next year and a half. We want to thank our amazing staff, Board, volunteers, and everyone in our community for helping to make 2022/23 another exceptional year for Fairfield Gonzales Community Association!

Vanya and Kristina



*Kristina Wilcox and Vanya McDonell*

# ***TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT***



Our neighbourhood of Fairfield Gonzales is located on the traditional, unceded (never surrendered) territories of the Lkwungen (Songhees) peoples. Recognizing the violence of this colonialism is a first step toward healing individuals and communities and is a critical part of demonstrating respect for the Indigenous peoples of British Columbia, the traditional stewards of this land. Our Centre acknowledges this is a current, active state requiring thought, respect and participation, rather than a token note of past history. By living here, working here and using the resources of this place we all participate in this experience. Looking to create a harmonious, sustainable, healthy community, we begin by challenging ourselves with questions:

What are the obligations to the people who first inhabited this land?

How do settlers on this land figure out what their responsibilities are?

How we can be good guests here?

How can we support existing local struggles?

And how can we support indigenous self determination in the longer term?

This kind of dialogue around inclusion, representation, participation, respect and action are vital for communities to thrive.

# **BOARD & COMMITTEES**

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

*BOARD MEMBERS WHO  
SERVED IN 2022/2023*

**SCOTT DAVIS  
ASHLEY FERNANDES  
QUINN FLETCHER  
JOANNA FOX  
CAROLINE FUZI  
MICHAEL HERSCH  
MANDY LEITH  
DON MONSOUR  
CAITLIN MCGUIRE  
ANNA PHELAN  
PHILIP SAWKINS  
JULIA WARREN  
BIANCA WALLACE**

The Board of Directors consists of up to 13 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.

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE  
AND FAIRFIELD FOOD FOREST



*Mason Bees*

This year in the Fairfield Food Forest, we engaged various demographics in the community in food growing, gardening, and connection to the land. Community Garden Coordinator, Andrea Fritz collaborated with FGCA's Early Years program, and Family programs to engage young children in caring for food-bearing plants and learn about their surroundings. We also held regular work party events where community members came out to help maintain the garden. People of all ages and abilities participated. These events created space for folks to meet new neighbours and learn more about this community food resource right in the heart of their neighbourhood.

This year, the Ross Bay Native Plant Garden proposal was approved by the city council! We have started recruiting volunteers for folks wanting to get involved in the installation of this new garden.

- 300+**      **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HOURS**
- 100+**     **EARLY YEARS & FAMILY PROGRAMS FOOD FOREST**
- EXPLORATION**
- 10**        **COMMUNITY EVENTS**
- 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 related to regional, and other government budgets, plans, zoning, and implementation and monitoring. Cycling, transit, pedestrian and other transportation policies and infrastructure. Parks and greenspaces and other relevant matters determined by the Committee, or the Board driven by the input of members and the neighbourhood. NIC membership is open to all community members.

- The committee conducted a neighbourhood survey and did a thorough data analysis to give input to BC Transit for their new local area plan.
- Advocated for City of Victoria staff to do a walkabout regarding accessibility concerns for Clover Point and shared the concerns from our own analysis of Clover Point
- Advocated for residents to the City of Victoria and Victoria Police regarding Fairfield Road traffic concerns.
- Advocated for the unhoused and housed to City of Victoria to come up with sheltering solutions to move the unhoused from parks before winter.
- Advocated and received confirmation from the city for several new or improved crosswalks.
- Gave recommendations on accessibility and prioritization regarding the City of Victoria Park Washroom Improvement Program



*Crosswalk Improvements*

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

FGCA Governance Committee 2023 Report  
The Governance Committee (the 'Committee') is currently represented by talented members who understand how the board works and are keen to assist in various capacity to support ongoing and new work areas of the organization and associated Committee groups. Current members are – Helen McDonald; Caroline Sheldrake; Don Monsour; Arthur Vanjcek; Dan Grant; Vanya McDonnell; and, Ashley Fernandes (7 members).

While the Committee assists the Board to fulfill its legal, ethical and functional responsibilities through the maintenance of Constitution and Bylaws, there is opportunity to further define expectations of how the Committee can and should operate through a board consensus.

A key aspect of the Committees work in 2023 included the Board Evaluation Survey. Based on the results of this survey, the following actions items were recommended going ahead in a detailed report.

- Outreach and Education for Critical Board Skills
- Orientation Session for all Board Members After an Election
- FGCA Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
- Review of Committee Structure and Terms of Reference
- FGCA Risks and Opportunities
- Review of Board and ED Decision-making

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
LAND USE COMMITTEE  
(CALUC)



*View of Mt Baker*

The CALUC currently has five members: Joanna Fox (Chair), Owen Sieffert, Don Monsour, Ashley Fernandes, and Carrie Fuzi. Michael Hirsch stepped down from the CALUC and we thank him for his contributions and knowledge—he will be missed.

CALUC preliminary/community meetings increased this past year and were held most months. Meetings moved to in-person meetings and included preliminary meetings to discuss the applicant's plans, and Community Meetings that included more detailed site specific zoning, rezoning and variances.

Land use development applications spanned from new builds to revisions of temporary use applications for commercial buildings. Community engagement was extensive for the multi-unit development on 1722, 1735, 1737 Fairfield Road, which includes a density bonus transfer arrangement with Abkahazi Gardens. It should also be noted that most of the new developments continue to include appropriate bike storage, provisions for e-vehicle charging and heat pumps. Accessible and adaptable units, parking, traffic, tree-canopy preservation, and the development height continue to be main concerns for all development applications.

The CALUC worked with the City staff to ensure all notices of meetings included plans being posted on the development tracker and an opportunity for the community to provide feedback online for 30 days. The housing crisis in Victoria has generated a lot of discussion how CALUC can support the FGCA to voice support for housing options like co-ops, non-market housing, housing for people who need it, and communicate what the community wants/would like to see.

The CALUC continues to encourage applicants to engage with the community in order to get the best development possible for Fairfield Gonzales.



## CAMP S

With a full return to regular programming, following the series of lockdowns, our Camps programs elected to revert to all day-long camps taking place at our main building. This decision was made to simplify the delivery of our camps program and place all camps under the guise of the \$10/Day funding. The unfortunate consequence was a slight reduction in attendance as we moved from 40 spaces for Pro-D and Spring at both Margaret Jenkins OSC and Fairfield OSC to 60 spaces at only Fairfield OSC. The camps programs continued to run at maximum attendance, boasting a 100% attendance rate.



*Camp Adventures*

|            |                             |            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| <b>360</b> | <b>PRO-D DAY ATTENDEES</b>  | <b>480</b> | <b>SUMMER CAMPERS</b> |
| <b>120</b> | <b>SPRING BREAK CAMPERS</b> | <b>1</b>   | <b>CAMP MANAGER</b>   |
| <b>16</b>  | <b>SPRING BREAK STAFF</b>   | <b>21</b>  | <b>SUMMER STAFF</b>   |

## FAMILY DROP-INS

Family programs in FGCA are designed to support and engage parents and children, promoting the well-being of families in our community. These programs offer resources, healthy snacks, parenting guidance, and age-appropriate developmental activities for children and families. Our popular programs like Parent & Tot and Kindergym provide excellent opportunities for large and fine motor activities for the children and socialization opportunities for the parents. These programs create a secure and supportive environment where caregivers and children can interact without interruptions. Additionally, our competent facilitators serve as valuable mentors, by sharing their first-hand knowledge and experiences. By fostering a healthy family and community life, Family Programs contribute to the overall well-being and development of the neighborhood.

|           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| <b>54</b> | <b>SESSIONS</b>            |
| <b>44</b> | <b>PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS</b> |
| <b>51</b> | <b>CHILDREN</b>            |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>STAFF</b>               |

*"I feel welcome to come to your programs. I feel there are people and facilitators here with whom I can share or chat about my concerns"*

**- Family Program Participant**



*Family Drop-In Participant*





*Youth Participants*

## YOUTH

Youth Zone is our Monday to Wednesday program for grades 5-7 that involves structured programming. Youth Zone registration was very consistent over the school year with 17 registrants to start and finish. Youth Zone's most notable highlight was a multi-month live action role playing project that culminated in an expansive day of fun in June.

Chill Zone is a low-barrier drop-in program for grades 5-7 running on Thursdays and Fridays. Attendance was way up from last year, up to 1,190 from 965. Although there were a few days with as many as 27 kids coming through, no one was ever refused entry due to capacity. These high numbers did lead to the creation of a more organized and fiscally sustainable punch-card system to be implemented for the 2023-24 school year.

Jump N Start is our registered special after school program for youth who have been deemed vulnerable to various factors. A Youth and Family Counsellor from their respective school selects each participant. A special thank you to George Jay Elementary School's principal, Sarah Winkler, for all of her ongoing effort and support that she offered to this program.

Although the popular middle school aged drop-in program was not able to be brought back for a second year, there was another program launched for that age group. Later in the year, a short trial of 3 lunchtime drop-ins at Gordon Head Middle School was trialed to great success. The middle school - specific drop-in will return however, as it is funded for the 2023-2024 school year. This will offer us an opportunity to support more Youth than we have previously.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>1,190</b> | <b>CHILLZONE DROP IN PARTICIPANTS</b>                     |
| <b>20</b>    | <b>YOUTH ZONE PARTICIPANTS</b>                            |
| <b>246</b>   | <b>JUMP N START PARTICIPANTS</b>                          |
| <b>58</b>    | <b>GORDEN HEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL GUYS' GROUP PARTICIPANTS</b> |
| <b>4</b>     | <b>STAFF</b>  |
| <b>1</b>     | <b>MANAGER</b>  |

## 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**  
**3.5 STAFF**  
**1 PRACTICUM STUDENT**

*"Thank you for your daily warmth, kindness, and presence. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
We feel so fortunate to have had you caring for our son"*  
**- Huckleberry Parent**



*Huckleberry Participants*

## CAMAS EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Camas Early Years Programs provides care for families with children between the ages of 2.5 and 5 years old. Mainly 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. Camas has become a deeply rooted program that fosters children's experiences in nature to allow for child-led inquiry and collaborative learning alongside educators. We foster a sense of community by working with the children to care for and grow in our garden. We value Mother Nature and what she provides us.



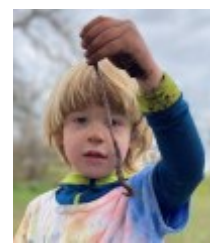
*Camas Participants*

**16 CHILDREN ENROLLED**  
**3.5 STAFF**  
**3 PRACTICUM STUDENTS**

*"We love the program, staff, and entire community. We feel like we won the jackpot!"*  
**- Camas Parent**

## MOSS ROCK PRESCHOOL

Moss Rock Preschool is a nature-based and child-led program that operates throughout the school year with two educators and 18 children. Inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy, children and educators collaborate on learning together through play which is made visible through ongoing documentation and narrations. Music lessons through the Victoria Conservatory of Music are one of many examples of new experiences that Moss Rock Preschool children get to have every year. The program's goals are to foster a connection to the natural world, build confidence in the children's abilities, and allow children's inherent inquisitive nature to develop and grow. Moss Rock Preschool is an inclusive space that welcomes all children and always strives to honor the diversity of the families that we serve.



*Moss Rock Participants*

**23 CHILDREN ENROLLED**  
**2 STAFF**  
**2 PRACTICUM STUDENTS**

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



## RECREATION



*Djembe Drumming & Percussion*

The FGCA provides a number of children and adult recreation-based registered programs. Recreation programs change at times to meet the needs of the community. With that in mind, we should acknowledge the commitment of three long-time instructors, Isabel Santos, Jordan Hanson, and Lauren Cox, who have been teaching and innovating their programs at the centre for well over a decade. Many of their students have been with them since day one! With their help, our recreation programs have been able to foster health, life learning, wellness, and a true sense of community. •

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

Family Basketball Drop-In  
Richardson Sport Soccer Skills for Kids  
Children's Creative Dance  
Improv Workshop  
Beginner Djembe Drumming and Percussion  
Spanish for Travellers

**640**     **REGISTRATIONS**  
**8**        **INSTRUCTORS**  
**110**     **DROP-IN**

*"The instructor is so kind and respectful of the children. She encourages creativity and fun, She makes the children feel they are important and their wants matter."*

**- Children's Creative Dance Participant**



# EVENTS & PROJECTS

FALL FAIRFIELD  
HOLIDAY HAMPERS  
BACK TO SCHOOL HAMPERS  
COALITION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES  
NEIGHBOURHOOD YARD SALE  
GET GROWING, VICTORIA!  
REPAIR CAFÉ FAIRFIELD  
CLOTHING SWAP  
COMMUNITY DINNERS  
RE-CRAFTING CIRCLE  
FOOD SECURITY  
OBSERVER NEWSPAPER  
ART AT THE PLACE  
BOOK CLUB  
MUNICIPAL ELECTION ALL CANDIDATES FORUM  
940 CALEDONIA FILM SCREENING  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF  
ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

## FALL FAIRFIELD

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September, we host our annual neighbourhood festival, Fall Fairfield. To quote one of the event participants, this year's Fall Fairfield was the best ever! 1500 community members gathered and celebrated the harvest season enjoying live performances, vendors, and activities. This was the first event that came back in full swing since the pandemic.



*Harvest Hat Making*



*Esquimalt Nation Dancers*



*Fall Fairfield Participants*

**4**            **MUSIC AND DANCE PERFORMERS**  
**23**           **CRAFT & FOOD VENDORS**  
**1500+**      **ATTENDEES**  
**15**           **VOLUNTEERS**

## HOLIDAY HAMPER FUNDRAISER

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the FGCA supported families in need during the holiday season. We supported families with gift cards to help them afford food and gifts for their families during a time that presents additional financial burden. 18 community members and one local business (Paws on Cook) helped raise funds to help families have a happy and stress-free holiday! Many expressed, with emotion, being extremely grateful for the support, and how it would make a difference for them and their kids in these challenging times. Thank you for making this possible!



FGCA Holiday Fundraiser

**\$3,100.90** RAISED  
**9** FAMILIES SUPPORTED

## BACK TO SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Back to school time can be financially stressful for families. So, the FGCA hosted a fundraiser to support the Fairfield Gonzales residents in need for the new school year. We raised funds through a Mindful Art Workshop hosted by Natalia Jaxion, and with general donations from the community. We used funds to purchase gift cards for groceries and school supplies for families with school-aged children.



FGCA Back-To-School Fundraiser

**\$5,722.15** RAISED  
**7** FAMILIES SUPPORTED  
**19** CHILDREN SUPPORTED

## COALITION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES: CAPITAL REGION

FGCA is proud to be a member of the Coalition of Neighbourhood Houses: Capital Region (CNH). CNH is a group of ten member agencies that offer similar services in their communities, with a regional span going from Sidney all the way to Sooke. CNH members collaborate on service delivery and funding applications, share ideas and resources, and advocate for support for the work of our agencies. This year we began a project on fostering Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in our agencies, hiring a consultant to audit our practices and provide recommendations for improvement. We also did significant work raising our profile in the community. We produced a cool video explaining who we are and what we do, which you can check out at [youtu.be/mH30ZDJApX8](https://youtu.be/mH30ZDJApX8). We worked on outreach to the province, meeting with several ministers and staff whose service areas overlap with ours and advocating for stable funding and support so we can keep doing our great work. The Victoria Foundation generously supported our EDI and profile-raising work. Our final big accomplishment this year was launching a feasibility study for a new Neighbourhood House in the Westshore, where agencies like ours do not exist but are highly needed. Find out more about the CNH at [cnhcr.ca](http://cnhcr.ca)



*Get Growing, Victoria! Volunteers*

**NEIGHBOURHOOD YARD SALE**

With much anticipation, we hosted another successful Community-wide Yard Sale Day! Community members can sign-up to be put on our map and get supported through FGCA promotion/communications. It's a fun day to sell/ purge your items and/or find hidden gems in neighbours' sales! Community members also had a chance to sign up and sell in the FGCA parking lot, which was also the event map & coffee pick-up location.

**42 REGISTERED SALES**  
**1000 VISITORS**

**GET GROWING! VICTORIA**

Get Growing, Victoria! Is a city-wide program facilitated by the City of Victoria distributing food seedlings and garden materials to residents who may face barriers to accessing food growing materials. This program was started in 2020, aiming to support residents who have been disproportionately affected by the impacts of the pandemic. The FGCA is a Neighbourhood Distribution Partner, distributing food growing materials to our neighbours on behalf of the city. The FGCA hosted 3 events distributing garden materials & food seedling starters.

**100 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED**  
**14 VOLUNTEERS**  
**3,000 SEEDINGS**  
**30 YARDS OF MULCH & COMPOST DISTRIBUTED**

## REPAIR CAFÉ FAIRFIELD

The Fairfield Repair Café is now in full swing since the pandemic. Every other month, community members are invited to bring in their personal items that need repairing and learn how to fix them from our volunteer fixers. Participants can bring anything ranging from household appliances, clothing, furniture, bicycles, toys and more! Anything one can physically bring in is fair game. The Repair Café is a larger organization running many events around the world. The intent is to teach people repair skills, reduce waste, and consumption. These bi-monthly events bring many community members to the center, problem solving, and repairing together!

**5 REPAIR CAFES HOSTED**  
**150 OBJECTS REPAIRED**  
**10 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, and a stress-free shopping

**7 SWAPS**  
**8 VOLUNTEERS**



*Clothing Swap Participant*

## 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 both by her Middle-Eastern culture., and community suggestions. Meals are by-donation, offering an affordable dinner option, and an opportunity to donate to help keep serving low-income families as food prices increase.

**14 COMMUNITY DINNERS**  
**980 MEALS**  
**5 VOLUNTEERS**



*Safia Preparing Community Dinners*

## RE-CRAFTING CIRCLE

This year, two volunteer facilitators started the Recrafting Circle, a monthly workshop where folks can learn to repair, recycle, and re-purpose old items that no longer serve their original purpose. Each month held a different theme, such as “Jeans!”, where folks learnt how to repurpose old pairs of jeans into bags and hats. The goal of the Re-crafting Circle is to teach folks the “lost arts” of rethinking/repurposing old items into something new and creative.

**4 WORKSHOPS**  
**30 PARTICIPANTS**  
**2 VOLUNTEERS**



## FOOD SECURITY



*Thursday Food Pantry*

Since its inception, we've continued to run our two weekly food programs, partnering with various non-profits, businesses, and the City of Victoria. Every week, rescued food, along with community donations get put into the hands of those who need it. Rescued & donated food comes from The Food Share Network, Starbucks, Coldstar, Gatton House Farm, and community members.

New this year, we've added a third weekly food program, specifically supporting isolated seniors who experience food insecurity and have limited mobility. Our volunteers pack and deliver weekly grocery hampers, also offering some conversation to those who'd like companionship.

In 2022-2023, we have made new partnerships and maintained existing ones with local businesses and non-profit organizations including Harvest & Share Food Relief Society, Gatton House Farm, BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupons, Backpack Buddies, and Gift of Good Food. These partnerships allowed more families and individuals to access healthy foods that meet their dietary needs and preferences.

We continued to provide support to community members with grocery gift cards as the food available varied each week, and we understand that many folks have varied needs that can be challenging to meet through our food programs.

**6** **VOLUNTEERS**  
**60+** **HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED**  
**\$800/WEEK** **GROCERY CARDS (SEPTEMBER—MAY)**

*“Not being able to work anymore after an injury and not having enough money for basic expenses, this has been a lifesaver!”*

**- Program Participant**

## OBSERVER NEWSPAPER

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



*Proof Reading the Observer*

**4 ISSUES**  
**19,500 COPIES MAILED**  
**500 COPIES PICKED UP**

## ART AT THE PLACE

Every other month, Fairfield Community Place's foyer displays local artwork. We offer a platform for artists to share their work, and for community members to discover local artists and even purchase pieces that speak to them. In addition to adding to the ambiance of the space, this fosters community connections, and appreciation for art.



*I feel, Therefore I am by Anneli Davey*

### 5 LOCAL ARTISTS

- **THERESA WRIGHT**
- **DEYDREE VALDEZ**
- **GERMAN MCKENZIE**
- **ANNELI DAVEY**
- **MOSS ROCK COLLECTIVE**

## BOOK CLUB

After meeting for 7 years, the FGCA's Book Club has come to a close. Up until April, the group met on the last Monday of every month. The group selected and discussed books on critical global issues, cultural understanding, and authors' lived experiences. The two volunteer facilitators guided participants through discussions on members' reflections, deepening their understanding about the topic of each book. The last Book Club meeting was held, in-person, as a meeting/social where Book Club members discussed the various books they've read over the years. Members took away their favorite books as gifts, and the rest were dispersed into the little libraries in the neighbourhood.

Thank you to our volunteer facilitators for offering the invaluable connection with people and books in the community!

**9 MEETINGS**  
**2 VOLUNTEERS**  
**100 PARTICIPANTS**

*"It has been 7 years filled with good books, insightful discussions and connections with neighbours. The FGCA support throughout made it possible to have such an open and welcoming club. "*

**-Book Club Facilitator**

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION ALL CANDIDATES FORUM

On September 15, 2022, we hosted an All-Candidates Forum for mayor and council candidates for the City of Victoria's October election. We used an open house format where each candidate hosted a table and attendees could connect directly with their municipal candidates. All 8 mayoral candidates and 37 council candidates were invited and a majority attended. Over a hundred community members came out to meet their candidates, and some stellar volunteers even made a 'candidate bingo' card to help people engage! We gave mayoral candidates the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes about their platform, which was also livestreamed on Youtube.



*Municipal Candidates with Community Members*

## 940 CALEDONIA FILM SCREENING

On April 29 we were fortunate to be invited to host a private screening of Krista Loughton's newest film, *940 Caledonia*, for our members and supporters. The intention was to foster dialogue and understanding around homelessness in our community. This film tells the story of the people who were living in Victoria's Central Park during the pandemic winter of 2020, when extreme weather conditions made their situation untenable and they were moved to tents in the parking lot of 940 Caledonia and then inside to Save-On Foods arena. It tells a story of tragedy but also of courage, hope, and the power of community.

Eddy Charlie and Kristin Spray of Orange Shirt Day Victoria opened the evening with a moving acknowledgement of the territory, speaking to the role of residential schools and intergenerational trauma on many of our neighbours who live on the streets. We closed with a panel discussion with three residents of 940 Caledonia, Tina, Jason, and Darren, who shared their experiences and perspectives on being unhoused in our community.

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

On November 21, we hosted a virtual conversation with Minister of Environment George Heyman, along with MLA and Minister of State for Childcare Grace Lore. We took questions in advance and from the floor for Minister Heyman. Topics ranged from the urban forest, to greenhouse gas emissions, to environmental cremation. Close to 100 people attended online.



*Community Conversations Advertisement*

# SERVICES

VOLUNTEERS  
FACILITY RENTALS  
YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS

## VOLUNTEERS

The FGCA relies on committed, passionate community members to support many of our programs, events and services. Without their help, we couldn't do what we do to serve our community. We are thankful for all our volunteers who give back to our community. Here are some ways folks volunteer with our organization:

Fairfield Food Forest and Community Gardens  
Clothing Swap  
Re-crafting Circle  
Repair Cafe  
Food Rescue Programs  
Community Dinners  
Book Club  
Facilities  
Observer Newspaper  
Photography  
Board of Directors  
CALUC  
Neighbourhood Improvement Committee  
Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours  
Fall Fairfield  
Database Support  
Get Growing! Victoria  
Fundraisings

**1 1 7**      **VOLUNTEERS**  
**3 5 5 3**    **VOLUNTEER HOURS**

## FACILITY RENTALS

Facility rentals continued to increase as covid restrictions were removed. The association has found it challenging to meet the number of rental/booking requests during prime times on weekday evenings (Monday to Thursday 6pm-8pm) due to a lack of



*The Garry Oak Room*



*Corrine's kitchen*



*Arbutus Room*

**7 9**      **RENTERS**  
**6 4 4**    **BOOKINGS**



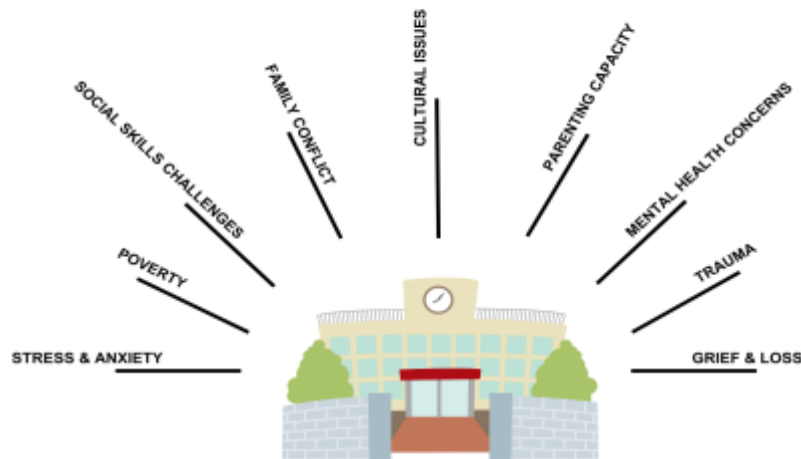
## YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association employs Youth and Family Counsellors (YFCs) who work onsite at schools in Greater Victoria School District #61. 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. Success can look like keeping students in school, keeping them housed, or teaching them coping schools to manage day to day.

James Bay Elementary  
Macaulay Elementary  
Victoria West Elementary

Central Middle School  
Lansdowne Middle School  
Shoreline Middle School  
Monterey Middle School  
Arbutus Middle School

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



*Top concerns that Youth & Family Counsellors are seeing in their schools*

**1,633**      **STUDENTS RECEIVED SERVICE**  
**629**        **FAMILIES**  
**15**         **YFCS**  
**12**         **SCHOOLS**

*“I believe it is important to have youth & family counsellors in our schools because they provide extra support that may not be available from teachers and staff, or academic counsellors...I can honestly say that I wouldn't have made it to my graduation without the counsellors support.”*  
**- Student who accessed YFC services**

# **WORKING AT THE FGCA**

**AUGUST 1ST 2022  
TO JULY 31ST 2023**

## **STAFFING**

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

**117  
EMPLOYEES IN 2022**

**92%  
STAFFING COSTS AS % OF  
OVERALL EXPENSES**

## **YEARS OF SERVICE**

We are fortunate to have a skilled and talented team of staff at FGCA, many of whom stay with us for years, and even decades! This year we are Recognizing:

### **OVER 5 YEARS OF SERVICE:**

Adam Rayburn, Youth Manager  
Tom Gavelin, OSC Leader  
Courtney Salmond, Youth & Family Counsellor  
Monica Roncto, Youth & Family Counsellor

### **OVER 10 YEARS OF SERVICE:**

Evan Pepper, Child Care Coordinator  
Kristina Wilcox, Co-Executive Director

### **OVER 15 YEARS OF SERVICE:**

Pippa Davis, Office & Communications Manager  
Vanya McDonnell, Co-Executive Director



*FGCA Staff*

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FGCA

FGCA has several streams of funding that help us do our work. Many of these are on-going, contract based, but we also regularly apply for grants and funding that will support the work we already do or allow us to meet new needs in our community. This year we saw many of the pandemic-related financial supports for non-profits cease, but other ongoing funding remained stable.

## **SUCCESSFUL GRANTS/FUNDING**

BC Gaming

Canada Summer Student Grant

City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grant

Tegan and Sara Foundation: Gender Generations Project

First West Credit Union

Ministry of Child and Family Development year-end funding

## **IN-KIND SUPPORT**

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

FoodShare Network - rescued food

Mustard Seed - Give Food Get Food program

BC Farmers Market - nutrition coupons

Gatton House Farm- fresh produce

Starbucks- food donations

## **FUNDING**

### **REVENUE**

**\$ 3,544,848 ACTUAL FOR YEAR**

### **EXPENSES**

**\$ 3,670,527 ACTUAL FOR YEAR**

**6 %**

### **CITY FUNDING**

**33 %**

### **PROVINCIAL & GAMING FUNDING**

**1 %**

### **FEDERAL FUNDING**

**37 %**

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 CONTRACT**

**21 %**

### **FGCA PROGRAMS & RENTAL REVENUE**

**2 %**

### **DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING & FOUNDATION GRANTS**

## **DONATIONS**

Our programs rely on donations from the community to thrive. This year many community members came forward to provide much-needed financial support for our food programs, whether through cash donations or by buying food to distribute. We also piloted a Back to School fundraiser, providing hampers for families to purchase supplies needed for back to school, and ran our Holiday Hamper fundraiser for its second year. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our neighbours in supporting people in need in our community and we thank each and every donor for their contribution.

# **FUNDING FOR THE FGCA**

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

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & CHILD CARE**

**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**



**Government of Canada**    **Gouvernement du Canada**