

Change can happen.
Profiles in community
leadership.

COMMUNiTY REPORT

FALL 2021

FAiR iN THE SQUARE

Coming back in June, 2022!

We're so incredibly excited for the return of this beloved event! We can't wait to again join our many passionate neighbours, volunteers, community partners, artists and all others who cherishes this very special annual event. Please be on the lookout for updates and volunteer opportunities early in the new year. We'll see you there!



CO-HOSTS

**CENTRAL CITY
FOUNDATION**



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FALL 2021

CENTRAL CITY FOUNDATION

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On the traditional and unceded
ancestral homelands of the
xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam),
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō
and Səl̓ilwətaʔ / Selilwitulh (Tsleil-
Waututh) Nations.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Central City Foundation has been helping people
in the inner city improve their lives since 1907.



For more information on the innovative, community-led solutions we fund,
please watch for our e-news or visit centralcityfoundation.ca

Change Can Happen.

Message from the CEO



"Change is possible. The conditions in the Downtown Eastside are very, very difficult for us. But I believe it's possible to change."

- Ken Lyotier, Retired DTES resident and Founder of United We Can

We, too, believe deeply that change is possible in our inner city. This past year, we have witnessed first-hand the profound difference community-led programs and initiatives have made for countless individuals seeking to improve their lives despite the extremely challenging conditions.

Founded by a handful of concerned Vancouver neighbours in 1907, Central City Foundation has been working toward change for more than a century. Through funding for social purpose real estate and support of innovative, community-led programs, we have worked tirelessly to help people in the inner city improve their lives. We believe in the intrinsic value of all human beings. By providing supports and addressing barriers, we are working to build a resilient, caring and inclusive community where it is possible for all people to overcome injustice, participate and thrive.

For a second year, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to heartbreaking consequences for so many lives in our inner city. The pandemic has continued to make life even more difficult for those already marginalized by poverty and systemic racism, who have struggled for generations with the resulting trauma, all while facing

the deadly consequences of the ongoing Opioid Crisis and widespread gender-based violence.

At the same time, we have also been incredibly inspired by the dedication and determination of extraordinary community leaders who are simply unwilling to accept the conditions in our inner city as they are. Through flexibility, innovative approaches and new collaborative efforts, these community leaders and their organizations have helped keep people in our inner city fed, sheltered, safe, healthy, employed and connected despite the many challenges. It gives us great joy to profile some of these individuals in this report so that many more people in our broader community can see that change can, and is, happening.

Thank you for your support. I'd also like to thank our Foundation's Board for their steadfast, unwavering support through these especially difficult times. I strongly believe that if we all work together to enable community-driven solutions, we will continue building hope for the future and ensure that more change truly does happen in our inner city.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Johnstone".

Jennifer Johnstone
President & CEO
Central City Foundation



CCF Central City Foundation Sept 14 · 🌐

Join our CEO @jenniferjstone for a webinar with @space4community for @THE_REIBC about the Space for Community Report. Learn more about the social purpose sector and affordable, suitable and secure spaces.




Jennifer Johnstone
President & CEO
Central City Foundation

"SPRE/REIBC's Space for Community study provides critical evidence of the seriousness of the threat to the very fabric of our community posed by increasingly scarce affordable, suitable and secure space."

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CCF Central City Foundation Aug 28 · 🌐

Did you know a number of Mission Possible Neighbours team members work on the weekends? They ensure that washroom trailers are clean and sanitized, and also help monitor plazas and street markets throughout the community!



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CCF Central City Foundation July 2 · 🌐


The @EndingViolence Outreach Team is on foot & taking action on intimate partner & sexualized violence - outreach is in effect in 4 #Vancouver communities - Commercial Drive, North Granville Street, Kingsway and #DTES - 7 days a week 5-10 pm. For info call or text 604-652-1867



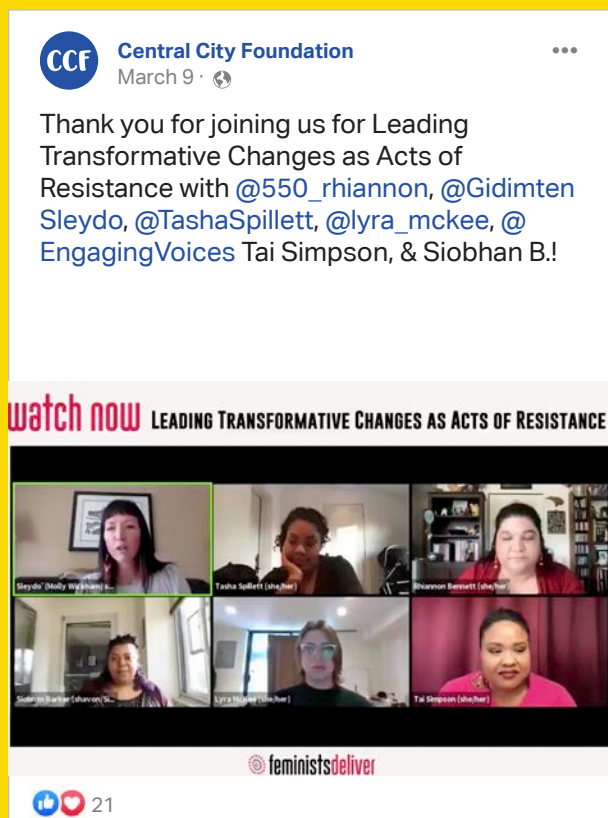
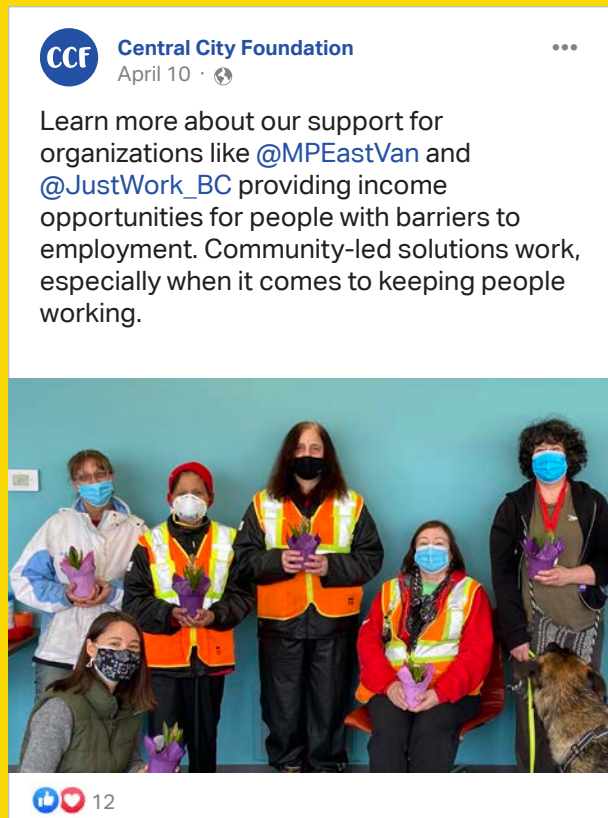
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CCF Central City Foundation Mar 15 · 🌐

We wish we could be celebrating Fair in the Square this weekend in person, but check out our virtual fair at centralcityfoundation.ca/about-us/fair-in-the-square/... and relive some great memories with us and @myVCC. See you in 2022!



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CHANGE CAN HAPPEN

Profiles of Community Leadership

Community leadership comes in many forms and often goes unrecognized. That's why we're celebrating the amazing people we work with who demonstrate the qualities and practices that ensure Change Can Happen in our community.

This year, we are celebrating eight examples of extraordinary community leadership that highlight the dedication and determination of those whose support for community-led solutions helped people in our inner city and beyond to improve the conditions of their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. These individuals stepped up to continue providing services. They developed new and innovative programs. They stood with people fighting for justice and ensured that folks in the inner city had access to income-earning opportunities, food, safety, healthcare and more.

Yes, change can happen. Even in the most challenging of times.



MARY CLIFFORD

*Director of Indigenous Early Years, Vancouver
Aboriginal Health Society
at the Phil Bouvier Family Centre*

We are celebrating Mary because of her commitment to adapting her services and programs when the pandemic hit to ensure Indigenous families and community members were supported and connected. Her dedication to not only maintaining but growing the Indigenous Early Years program at the Phil Bouvier Family Centre and beyond ensured that hundreds of families stayed connected during the crisis. She didn't hesitate to provide strong leadership to ensure programs rooted in Indigenous culture, knowledge and tradition were available online and in-person, including in socially-distanced outdoor activities in local parks.

"Leadership in the Indigenous Community is seen differently," says Mary. "We want our leaders to recognize and understand their power, not just use it. We see ourselves as part of a circle of equality and that at any time, we may have to take on other roles. We nurture and expect people to bring and show their best as we treat them as such."

Mary notes that ongoing trauma has affected her community significantly. "As the urban Indigenous community was also hard hit by the overdose

pandemic and the extra trauma load after the uncovering of tortured, murdered and missing children, this community was reeling from grief and loss," she says. "It has been a difficult year where families are further apart, have lost more and struggle with connections."

Because their organization had connections with community members, they were able to address emergent needs during COVID-19. "It helped us get to those in most need, as we were trusted and known for our services," says Mary. "It helped us understand that it wasn't just about the cleaning supplies and other adjustments, but that the community was now facing an emotional and spiritual crisis that was exacerbated by the overdose/fentanyl poisoning pandemic."

Mary says she values the work Central City Foundation does to be a partner at the table. "Funders are of the circle and should never be seen as outside of the work," she notes. "We know it's valuable to have a funder like CCF in our corner and thinking about the future with us. The real support and understanding they have of our agency, our history, vision and path forward, this isn't found very often in any realm and is most valuable to VAHS."

She says that CCF has been a partner in the truest sense of the word. "They have honoured our vision, followed us and promoted our vision with others," she notes. "They have taken time to ask valuable questions, have taken the time to listen to what we say and have helped take action or make plans towards actions."



ANGELA MARIE MACDOUGALL

Executive Director, Battered Women's Support Services

We are celebrating Angela because she acted immediately to reorganize services and programs when she realized the COVID-19 pandemic would present new and immediate threats to the health and safety of women and girls in our community. She was the first to raise the alarm about the increase in gender-based violence and took quick action to ensure 24-hour support for women. She has been a strong leader and unflinching advocate raising awareness and creating change to address gender-based violence and systemic racism both at the local and national levels.

In a pandemic, violence has generally been found to increase but is highly underreported due to stigma and social pressures. COVID-19 has not only led to an increase in the cases of gender-based violence but disconnected victims and survivors from their support networks.

"While under quarantine, women individually are in close proximity to their abusive partners with limited to no freedom to go out, thus leading to an increase in gender violence at home," notes Angela. BWSS opted to "run into the burning building by scaling up our services," she notes. By the end of March 2020, they were operating 24/7. Their crisis line was available



province-wide, with calls coming from across Canada and internationally.

Between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, BWSS supported 1,656 women to get and stay free from violence. In 2020, they received 32,000 requests for service, up from 18,000 the previous year.

"We also undertook a broad-based media and social media strategy to get the word out to survivors, friends, family, neighbours, community-based organizations," says Angela. "We amplified the call for increases in service availability and funding for protection needs, shelters, transition houses during quarantine and beyond. We also made continuous and rigorous efforts toward putting an end to the stigma associated with gender-based violence."

Angela points out that her work is designed to strengthen the communities BWSS represents. "Our work under COVID is laser-focused to expand services while at the same time we continue to work for social change to build a society in which our institutions and organizations are equitable and just, and all people are safe, adequately fed, adequately housed, well educated, able to work at safe, decent jobs, and able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives," she says.

She credits Central City Foundation for demonstrating a proactive response to the impacts of social inequities exacerbated by the conditions of quarantine and social isolation. "CCF heard the concerns expressed by community organizations and acted on the specific vulnerability to violence experienced by women in the inner city through funding community-based responses," she says. "This response was timely and engaged, so the feeling experienced through working with CCF is a deep sense of understanding, community and connection."



STEVE JOHNSTON

Executive Director, Community Impact Real Estate Society

We are celebrating Steve for his commitment to bringing together community organizations that were struggling to maintain their services and programs when the pandemic hit so we could collaborate and coordinate essential support for our inner-city neighbours from a community-focused and community-led approach. Through the creation and development of the Community Coordinated Response Network (CCRN), he provided leadership to ensure funding, support and coordination for community organizations.

In response to COVID-19 health orders, Steve and CIRES moved quickly to bring together people to explore issues of business and program continuity in the face of the lockdown. This soon turned into a thrice-weekly meeting with more than 50 stakeholders, including non-profits, social enterprises, labour unions, businesses and

government. The CCRN was formed to discuss issues like sanitation, access to PPE, food production and distribution and income generation for low-income residents not able to access federal supports.

"Programs foisted on neighbourhoods that are not grounded in a place-based approach that include local voices and lived experience have little chance of success," says Steve. "Solutions need to be designed and led by community with assistance from funders and government, not the other way around."

For Steve, community leadership means creating a space where all voices can be heard, recognizing that people living in the inner city know what the solutions could be. It's listening to those with lived experience. "Leadership is building a constituency-based on shared principles that actively demonstrates the collaborative approach that's always been present among stakeholders in the DTES," he says.

"Local non-profits and residents with lived experience know what's needed to create a just and equitable community that works for all residents," says Steve. "I think what works is creating a space where these voices can come together and actively collaborate and coordinate their efforts to build that community."

Central City Foundation was part of CCRN from the beginning, working alongside community to ensure vital supports were in place.

"I most value the willingness of Central City Foundation to actively collaborate with us and participate in doing the work with community," says Steve. "Knowing that your funder sits at the same table and actively participates in community building changes the nature of the relationship, and you know that they actively buy into the work being done and will champion the cause."





TRRUST COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Project Manager, Erica Mark and youth leaders

We are celebrating the extraordinary community leadership of TRRUST Collective Impact because of their efforts to ensure youth aging out of care and the community organizations that support them (76 organizations, 265 members, 884 participant engagements in working groups in 2020) were provided opportunities to engage and advocate for their needs during the pandemic.

Through those efforts, TRRUST successfully provided technology to keep youth connected, funding for emergency housing, graduation activities as well as training and employment opportunities. They continue to show leadership in creating space and resources for the community to collaborate and break down silos of services and address inequities and inequalities that youth aging out of care are facing.

At the age of 19, youth in care are forced out of their homes and expected to be fully independent without their previous support system. With this transition, they are disproportionately represented in youth homelessness statistics. Lack of continuity in their education coupled with many other factors lead to youth in care having significantly lower graduation rates.

"We use a collective impact model to bring together young people, organizations and allies who want to work together to improve the outcomes for youth transitioning out of government care, says Erica. "We work with young people with lived experience in the government care system to identify systemic barriers and gaps and then problem solve, together with supportive organizations, potential solutions to improve outcomes."

"TRRUST has helped me to believe that I am in control of my future and I can create the life that I want," says one of the youth leaders. "It has given me hope, ambition, and confidence. I never used to think I could accomplish anything. I will always be extremely grateful for TRRUST, it helped me have a better life, and I'm so honoured to continue to be involved with it."

For Erica, community leadership means creating opportunities for open discussions with community experts who have lived experience. "Community leadership is about listening, empowering, supporting and advocating for the community and your team," she says. "It is about collaboration, planning and working together towards a common goal. It is building off the collective groups' strengths, following through on commitments and effective communication."

Erica says she values how engaged Central City Foundation is in the community. "I feel like they genuinely care, want to learn about the issues and help," she notes. "Support from Central City Foundation has enabled us to react to the needs of our youth in care community and provide tangible solutions."



NAVED NOORANI

Executive Director, Potluck Café & Catering

We are celebrating Naved because of his unwavering commitment to ensuring community members in the DTES were fed and nourished during the COVID-19 pandemic. His contribution as a leader of Potluck Café and Catering was outstanding - including his efforts to secure funding and coordinate production and distribution of meals for community members. He provided an example of how community organizations can support one another and collaborate in order for all to thrive and care for one another. His organization pivoted from a catering business to focus solely on the immediate need of feeding those living in SROs and currently experiencing homelessness while maintaining a commitment to jobs, community and opportunity as a social enterprise.

"There are many talented people working in the non-profit sector, who are very committed to bettering the lives and living conditions of the DTES community," says Naved. "Adopting a more holistic approach towards the needs and issues that we aim to resolve produces better results and a far greater impact on the community we are committed to serve."

In response to COVID-19 health orders, Naved brought together partners in food and distribution to keep the community fed. He realized that the

best option was to standardize meals, have them produced in identical packaging, deliver them to a distribution centre and deliver to various locations. "I volunteered our resources to coordinate the production and distribution of meals for the residents of the DTES," he says. "We knew the demand was far greater than any one facility could produce, and so we shared the production over several facilities."

At their peak, they were producing 1,100 meals a day, as well as raising funds to produce meals for the homeless community.

Naved says it's the experience working with people in the inner city and their lived experience that brings real community leadership. "A community like ours that is so invested in bettering the lives of the residents has spent innumerable hours gaining ground-level knowledge of the issues that the community encounters and what solutions will and will not work," he says. "Harnessing this knowledge, given the resources needed, they will most definitely find the most plausible solution."

He acknowledges that support from funders and partners like Central City Foundation brings critical understanding of the big picture. "Through collaboration, we gain knowledge that we are lacking," he says. "Being so invested in the community, their suggestions help eliminate the need for the trial and error approach that smaller non-profit businesses have to take. With limited resources, unlike larger corporations, we need to rely on community partners like CCF."



NiCOLAS YUNG

DTES SRO-Collaborative – Chinese Seniors Expertise

We are celebrating Nicolas because of his commitment to ensuring that Chinese seniors living in SROs, who were made the most vulnerable by the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent shutdown of services and supports in our inner-city community, were kept safe and connected. As part of the DTES SRO-Collaborative team, he was tireless in his efforts to reach out to isolated Chinese seniors in private SROs in the DTES and Chinatown to identify their needs and provide support, including important information to keep them safe through multilingual materials, one-on-one interactions and providing COVID prevention supplies. He ensured they had culturally appropriate grocery boxes and access to vaccination information and clinics.

He has collaborated and coordinated with other social service staff in other local Chinese serving organizations and trained a team of skilled volunteers to provide essential outreach. He has set the foundation to build important and necessary resiliency and capacity in the community to respond to future challenges.

The SRO Collaborative is working to improve affordability, habitability, safety and sense of community in the privately-owned single room occupancy hotels, including the Chinese Benevolent

Society hotels in Vancouver's Chinatown. They operate several projects related to food, Elders and culture, harm reduction, cleaning and repairs with a focus as much as possible on building capacity among tenants to help themselves and neighbours.

Nicolas was instrumental in establishing a large information and distribution network in the hotels related to COVID-19 and overdose prevention. "We organized food services so tenants could shelter at home, delivered soap and other hygiene supplies, PPE and harm reduction supplies," he says.

He notes that the pandemic increased anti-Asian racism in the community. "We worked to build awareness around this racism and found more allies, funding, and volunteers on the ground. My relationship with all the seniors has solidified, and now we have a much stronger community network," he notes. "The whole community came together and shared a narrative about what's at stake. The emergency helped a lot with the inter-organization communication."

Central City Foundation was the largest funder of the Collaborative's multilingual vaccination campaign this year. "This helped to protect some of the city's most vulnerable residents during the third and fourth wave of COVID-19," notes Nicolas. "Their staff were at all the COVID-19 emergency response meetings strategizing with all of us about what we can do as a collective to stop the pandemic from wiping out the neighbourhood."





JOHANNA Li

Manager, EMBERS Eastside Works

We are celebrating Johanna because of her unfaltering commitment during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensuring access to continued income-earning opportunities, peer work, and community income support saved lives for those left out by government programs. She was steadfast in pushing for funding and resources, adapting services as well as ensuring the voices and needs of our community members were heard and met.

EMBERS Eastside Works is a low-barrier income generation hub located in Vancouver's inner city. Working collaboratively with community and various levels of government, they provide appropriate work opportunities to individuals with high barriers to employment.

When COVID-19 hit, they were no longer able to operate as a drop-in centre. Virtual connection for people they support is usually not suitable as many lack the technology. "We were able to keep many people employed through our in-house program, much of which takes place outdoors," says Johanna. "We then focused on how to bring funding and supports in to help other very grassroots organizations to keep people employed who were doing COVID-related work – outreach, food provision, hygiene kits etc."

Johanna credits the way the whole DTES community collaborated to ensure people living and working in the inner city were cared for. "I am proud of how the whole community showed real agility to respond to this crisis and work together to get things done that government couldn't manage in that short period of time," she notes.

She also points out that collaborating with other organizations, the City and other governments gave her organization a way to speak up for community. "We are the voice for many who do not have the platform to speak," she says. "Our organization has been working in the DTES for over 20 years, and through our work, we truly understand the needs of people and how to get them what they need quickly and effectively."

For her, community leadership means stepping up when real challenges arise. "We can't shy away from the tough situations," she says. "COVID-19 proved to be a real challenge, but we came together as a community when it was most needed with so many showing true community leadership."

Johanna says she values the leadership Central City Foundation has shown as well. "CCF has always shown great leadership in the community, not just as a funder but as a convener, an advocate and a true supporter of lasting change," she says. "CCF has always been outspoken regarding community-led solutions and during COVID, has provided real guidance to ensure our voices are heard, and we have greatly benefited from its active participation in the DTES."





CAITHLIN SCARPELLI

*Director, Communications & Fund Development,
Atira Women's Resource Society*

We are celebrating Caithlin because of her commitment to adapting services and programs during the pandemic to ensure women were safe, cared for and connected. She has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the community, showing up time and again to support her colleagues, and those folks made most vulnerable during the pandemic in the Downtown Eastside. She found ways to share her resources, to help others access vitally needed funds and resources and challenged folks to do better both by her example and clear advocacy at collaborative tables. She provided strong leadership in finding innovative ways to address the increase in gender-based violence that women faced due to the pandemic restrictions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, community spaces closed or were operating at reduced capacity, which left women with almost nowhere to go to access their basic needs. With fewer shelter beds, women were at increased risk and experienced increased fear and anxiety. This led to isolation, loneliness and created an increased risk of violence.

With Caitlin's leadership, Atira was able to adapt programming to meet provincial health orders

and started new programs in response to gaps in community services.

"If programs aren't community-led, they aren't for community," she adds. "Programs should always respond to needs identified by the people they are intended to serve, and wherever possible, include staff, both leadership and front-line staff, with lived expertise."

When Caithlin pitched the idea of opening SisterSquare in May 2020, Central City Foundation was at the table. "I showed up at a community round table and told the group we were looking to erect a tent for women only, including trans, two-spirit and transfeminine folks," Caithlin says. "The intention was a place for women to flee to if they felt unsafe or at risk of violence, and also to use safely (both injection and inhalation), to get a meal or snack, and to connect with support workers, peers, housing staff and stopping the violence counselling."

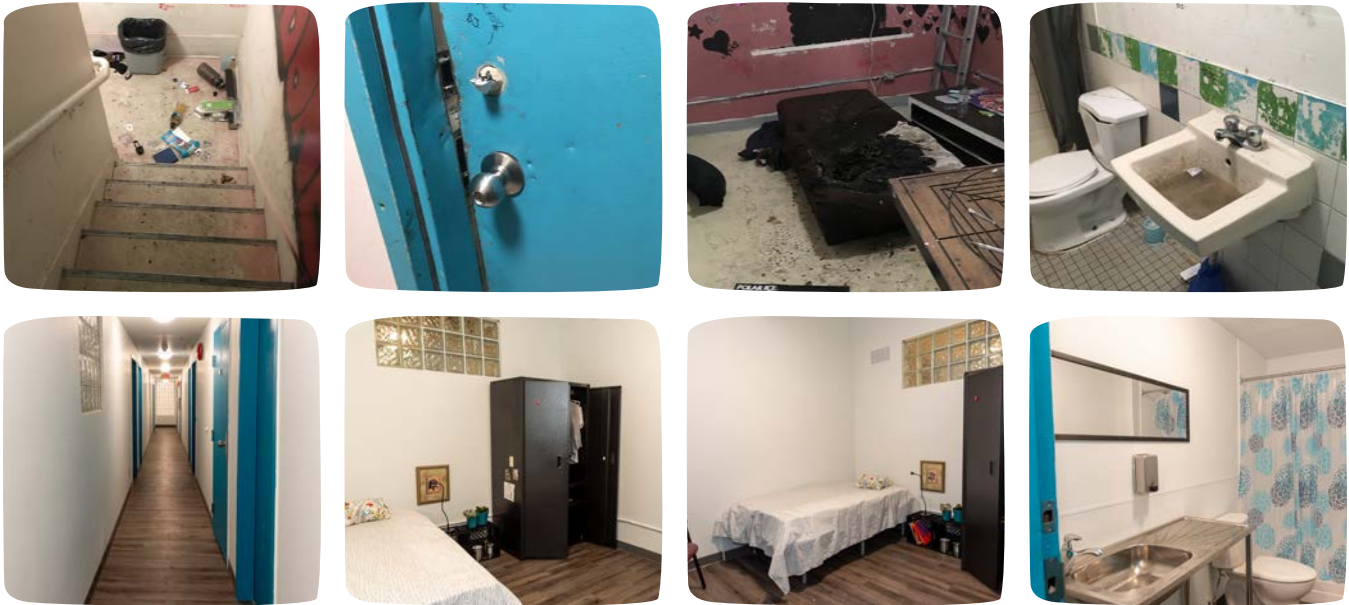
After that meeting, Central City Foundation offered to help and committed significant funding quickly to get it going. "I can't express enough how important that first funder is to the ultimate success of any new program," says Caithlin.

Since SisterSquare opened, there have been 109,235 visits, just 12 overdoses and no deaths. They continue to see between 80 -100 women every day. "I think Central City Foundation is making change in the funder world by being a foundation that not only provides funding for programs and projects, but building valuable networks, participating in multiple community groups and round tables, and pushing for meaningful change in systems, alongside their neighbours and partners," says Caithlin.



SOCIAL PURPOSE REAL ESTATE UPDATE

CCF to pilot new model of transitional housing for women at the Cosmopolitan Hotel



FIRST ROW: The Cosmopolitan Hotel before the renovation. SECOND ROW: The Cosmopolitan Hotel today.

The Cosmopolitan Women's Transitional Housing Program will be opening soon to provide a safe and welcoming community for women struggling with homelessness in the inner city that includes wrap-around trauma-informed and culturally inclusive programs and support services. The newly renovated Cosmopolitan building and housing program will support women to navigate their individual journeys to wellbeing and fill a critical gap in the continuum of safe and affordable housing in the inner city.

Restoring the Cosmopolitan Hotel: rising like a Phoenix once again

Central City Foundation purchased the derelict 42 room SRA (single room accommodation) Cosmopolitan Hotel building in 2003. Completely renovated at the time, the Cosmopolitan Hotel

residences have provided clean and safe housing at the lowest shelter rates for many years. We have also provided a secure and subsidized space for the Vancouver Women's Health Collective on the ground floor of the building.

Early in 2019, we learned from our property managers that the residential portion of the building was taken over by an organized group of illegal tenants who proceeded to cause extensive damage and destruction throughout the building. While this is not an uncommon problem in the inner city, it was the first time CCF faced this incredibly difficult situation. With no supports from government and little help from the police, CCF took steps to secure the building, bringing in 24-hour security in addition to the onsite property management staff and began a long and costly process to remove the illegal tenants and begin refurbishing and restoring the building. All

of this took place while navigating the extraordinarily challenging conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued overdose crisis from the poisoned drug supply in the inner city.

Search for a community-led solution

Over the course of the past year, CCF undertook a process of renewed consultation and engagement with our community partners to develop an operating model that would better serve the urgent needs of folks struggling with homelessness while addressing the harms and the many barriers to wellbeing that continue to exist in our inner city. We were also looking for a model that would help us keep people safe in our housing.

CCF's long-standing community-focused approach to philanthropic investments has resulted in strong relationships with organizations where those most affected, people with lived experience, have meaningful input into designing the programs and services to address the complex needs in our community. This has allowed us to better understand the issues, the needs and the community-led solutions that offer the best opportunity for change to happen and help folks improve their lives.

What emerged from our many conversations with community as the most urgent need was a different approach to addressing the critical shortage of safe housing for women in the Downtown Eastside and a vision for a new kind of program that would not only provide housing but also help women connect to community, to services and programs that would build on their strengths to shape a path for themselves to permanent housing and wellbeing.



"It is really exciting to see all of the different groups in our community who are supporting our women come together and bring their areas of expertise to the table to create something new that fills gaps in the sector," says Kayla Young, Program Manager at Vancouver Native Housing Society. "The passion of CCF and desire to do something different and break the mould is what is making this possible and making it possible to bring everyone together. It's a beautiful program with a lot of potential."

New Partners

CCF's new transitional housing program includes coordinated community-based services and supports delivered in concert with a custom-built transitional supportive housing project located at CCF's Cosmopolitan Hotel, which will provide a haven within which women can pursue their journeys to trauma recovery and wellness. Along with a new housing operator, Vancouver Native Housing Society, CCF has brought together a strong network of community organizations to help design and deliver the program, including the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, WISH Drop-in Centre, Battered Women's Support Services, Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society, Vancouver Women's Health Collective and the Aboriginal Housing Management Association. We expect to widen this network as we begin to understand the individual, complex needs of the participants in the housing program.

"Having that wrap around approach is so important, to look at people with a vision of what they want to do with their lives," says France Emmanuelle Joly, Executive Director of Vancouver Women's Health Collective, which has been located on the main floor of the Cosmopolitan Hotel for many years. "We're looking forward to participating in these women's well-being and journeys to outcomes that better suit their lives and being an extension of their living quarters to help them create that sense of home."

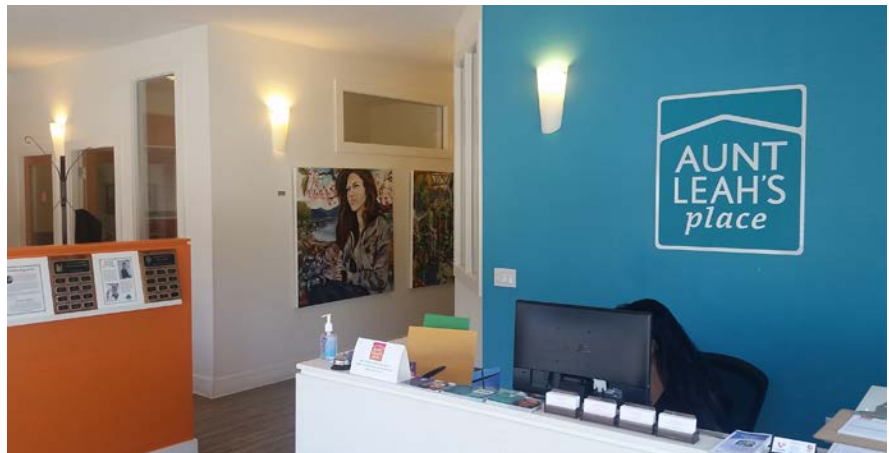
We have received two years of generous funding to support the pilot program from the Beedie Foundation and another anonymous foundation that sees the need for this new approach to both the housing crisis and the overdose crisis.

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, the final phase of renovation and restoration at the

Cosmopolitan included electrical upgrades, new flooring, kitchen and bathroom renovations, and new paint, furnishings, and fixtures to help create a sense of community and make the units feel warm and inviting. By restoring the Cosmopolitan, we can offer women who are ready to transition out of emergency shelter care or other unsafe housing a welcoming facility.

Change can happen

By creating a wrap-around approach to trauma-informed and culturally safe services for all self-identified women, connecting women on an ongoing basis to community-based supports while providing a safe and supported place to live, we will create opportunities for women to stop the harm in their lives and overcome existing barriers to their individual journeys to wellbeing. The program will also focus on removing barriers to communities of women residents seriously underserved in the Downtown Eastside, including young women aging out of care, refugee women and Indigenous women. Our Women's Transitional Housing Program will value personal choice, self-determination, and be centred around coordinated, trauma-informed and culturally safe care in community. We believe this approach creates space to heal underlying trauma and the opportunity to co-create a safe and connected community for women in the inner city.



Aunt Leah's Place

Central City Foundation's goal is to build a resilient, caring and inclusive community where it is possible for all people to overcome injustice, participate and thrive. We strongly believe in Aunt Leah's mission to strengthen families by supporting young mothers and youth in the foster care system. We very much value our longstanding relationship with Aunt Leah's and look forward to continuing to invest in all the wonderful things they do.

Phil Bouvier Family Centre

Services and programs at the Phil Bouvier Family Centre have been adapted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to make sure Indigenous families and community members are continuing to be supported and connected. These actions ensured that hundreds of families have stayed connected during the crisis. These programs, rooted in Indigenous culture, knowledge and tradition, have been available online and in person, including in socially-distanced outdoor activities in local parks.

The Crossing

As you may have read in the news, the Provincial Health Services Authority decided to close the Ashnola program that had been running at our facility at the Crossing at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Long-term live-in treatment for youth in BC is still strongly needed. Central City Foundation donors and our partners remain committed to children, youth and families in BC who are struggling with the challenges of addiction.

We recognize there is still a critical need for this facility and for treatment programs for youth and young adults. We continue to hold space at the Crossing for a long-term treatment program and are now in negotiations with Interior Health and other community groups. We expect to see a re-opening of the treatment centre in the near future. Stay tuned.

CENTRAL CITY
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2021

With your support, we are helping to ensure that Change Can Happen in our inner city through funding of programs that positively impact the challenging conditions faced by thousands of vulnerable people in our community.

From safe, clean and affordable housing to outreach services for women to food security and employment programs—you have helped people in our community cope with the current challenges while building a more hopeful future. For over 100 years, we have worked alongside our community partners to remove barriers, create opportunities and foster connections within the inner city. We transform financial support from people like you into lasting improvements in the housing, health and hope of our city's most vulnerable people. In this coming year, we see many continuing challenges and opportunities, and we need your support to meet them.



With Central City Foundation, your gift to our annual campaign can make a lasting impact by helping people in the inner city improve their lives.

\$1,000

Will help provide transitional housing for women to access a coordinated network of community support services to navigate their healing journey

\$500

Will help provide community-led outreach in response to the alarming increase in gender-based and sexualized violence against women

\$250

Will help support community-based food security programs

Please support Central City Foundation by donating today at centralcityfoundation.ca. If you have questions or would prefer to make an offline donation, please feel free to contact our office at 604.683.2263 or development@centralcityfoundation.ca



HOW YOU HELPED

At Central City Foundation, our grants and programs are as diverse as the needs of our community partners. Together, we're helping people in the inner city cope with the current challenges while building a more hopeful future.



Coordinated Community Response Network

CCF continues to be deeply involved in the Coordinated Community Response Network, which was created at the start of the pandemic to ensure resources and services were coordinated to help provide safety, connection and nourishment for community members in the DTES. This collaborative group worked to ensure social enterprises were able to prepare, package and deliver 2200 meals per day and developed a community sharing

and distribution hub for PPE. They also facilitated allocation and distribution of emergency response funds for peer initiatives, resulting in 30,000 hours of peer employment through 15 different groups that responded to a wide range of community needs. This year Central City Foundation provided funding for a Coordinator position so that they can continue to develop this network of over 50 community organization stakeholders who are continuing to work toward addressing community needs.

BWSS – Safety Changes Everything Outreach Program

A CCF grant is helping increase safety and connection for women facing gender-based violence in Vancouver's inner city through Battered Women's Support Services new Safety Changes Everything Outreach Program. The first street-based outreach program provided by an anti-violence organization in Vancouver, their goal is to connect with women and girls who are experiencing gender-based violence or sexualized violence and is a direct response to the crisis our community has been facing due to the intersections of the COVID-19 pandemic, opioid crisis and the increase of public levels of violence toward women, girls both in their homes and on the street. Volunteers and staff are meeting women where they are at in the streets and alleys and removing the barriers that make it difficult for women to access support. Outreach teams are increasing safety, breaking isolation, and providing women with connection to violence prevention and gender-based violence specific services and to address the impacts of trauma, which is often intergenerational.

City Centre Care Society – Central City Lodge ARP

We are delighted to provide support to Central City Lodge for their Addiction Recovery Program that helps provide a positive environment to promote a healing path for residents that is physically and culturally safe, dignified and empowering. Engaging with their Indigenous residents alongside Elders and Indigenous community partner organizations, the project includes the development of a mural in the common space that will empower residents to co-create a safe space that supports traditional healing and connection. For over 100 years City Centre Care Society has been providing care and support to men who are facing multiple barriers to health and well-being and inequitable conditions in the inner city. This program offers a holistic, respectful, resident-centred, trauma informed, evidence-based environment for change.



DTES SRO Collaborative – Chinese Seniors

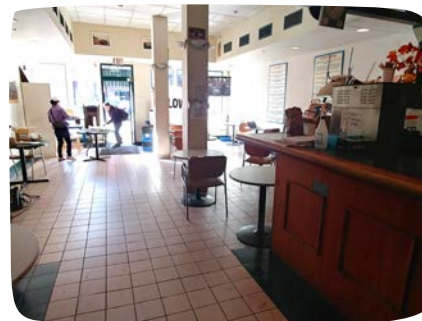
CCF provided a grant to the DTES SRO Collaborative to support their Multi-Dialect Chinatown COVID-19 program that is supporting the under-

served, mostly older population of Chinese Canadian tenants living in the Downtown Eastside SROs and social housing projects. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, services and respite spaces for Chinese seniors were closed, creating isolation in this population which relies heavily on in person social support. Many Chinese seniors speak unique dialects, are not literate in their original languages and are not able to read many forms of public communications. This important project provided funding for DTES SRO Collaborative staff and resources that have provided COVID-19 information for Chinese seniors in the Downtown Eastside as well as other health, wellness supports and social connections.



The Dugout

This year, CCF expedited our annual grant to The Dugout Drop-in Centre due to the urgency for support during the pandemic. As a result, the Dugout was able to maintain their support for nutrition provision for community members without interruption. When pandemic restrictions were loosened, The Dugout began opening their space for some hours throughout the day and otherwise continuing to serve food on a takeout basis. In addition, they installed plexiglass barriers and invested in temperature checking devices and cleaning supplies, including masks and gloves which they provided to patrons. They continue to serve about 250-300 people every day. They also continue to employ members of the DTES community and have maintained their pay levels despite shorter hours. Their longstanding AA group has adapted to going virtual as required but have been returning to in person meetings as restrictions lift.



South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

CCF provided a matching grant to the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House to purchase refrigeration equipment for their Food Hub and Spoke project. With the food bank closing due to COVID-19, the South Vancouver NH has been supporting



food security by providing hampers at various locations to 550 enrolled members. This grant significantly increased their capacity to distribute culturally appropriate food to individuals and families throughout South Vancouver and has also helped connect them with other supports and programs. The South Vancouver Neighbourhood house has a multilingual staff team and dedicated outreach staff who are engaging community members to ensure their voices and experiences are integrated into their program planning.



Kinbrace Society

CCF funded Kinbrace Refugee Housing and Support Society to provide much-needed kitchen equipment used to provide community dinners. This organization uses cooking and the sharing of meals to provide deep connection with refugee claimants and their alumni. Kinbrace helps hundreds of people brought together on a journey of mutual transformation on the pathway to refugee protection through housing and support services.

Many newcomers encounter overwhelming and traumatic transitions to their new home. Through housing, orientation, accompaniment and education, Kinbrace provides empowering care for refugees who do not have access to other supports. The meals prepared and shared by Kinbrace provides their alumni with opportunities to give back to their community by welcoming and supporting newcomers.



Atira Women's Resource Society– Sisters Square

We continue to fund Atira's SisterSquare respite site so that all self-identifying women have access to a safe space to connect with one another and supports 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As the COVID-19 pandemic forced women out of public spaces and into often dangerous circumstances, the regional rates of violence against women and intimate partner violence increased. The closure of safe gathering spaces remains a danger for many women's physical and emotional wellbeing. SisterSquare continues to refer about 15 women a month to

their housing outreach team who are looking for safe housing or emergency shelters. During the first year of SisterSquare, Atira has supported over 67,000 visits at the respite space, supervising over 20,000 safe injections and providing access to washroom and shower facilities, personal hygiene, snacks, hot meals, one-to-one emotional support, harm reduction supplies and safe overnight shelter. At least 385 unique women have accessed SisterSquare since its inception with a large majority who identify as First Nations, Metis or Inuit.

Feminists Deliver

Central City Foundation continues to be an active member (with Jennifer Johnstone acting as Co-Chair) of Feminists Deliver, a grassroots collaboration of BC-based Two-Spirit people, non-binary folks, Indigiqueer, trans women, lesbian women, and cis women and girls, and the organizations that support them. Feminists Deliver centres intersectional feminism, anti-oppression and decolonization. In its third year, Feminists Deliver continues to engage 25 organizations spanning disciplines and intersectional equality seeking efforts. The past year had been especially challenging as COVID-19 exposed pre-existing structural inequities that people who have been marginalized face. Feminists Deliver lead urgent conversations featuring community leaders in BC and globally to instigate deep reflection and action from intersectional feminists worldwide.

THERE'S MORE!

For more detailed beneficiary reports about how you've helped these and other community-led solutions, visit centralcityfoundation.ca

A PROMISING FUTURE: LEAVE A LEGACY OF CARING

Your planned gift will help people in the inner city improve their lives

When you include a gift in your will to Central City Foundation, you will be helping to ensure that the most marginalized people in the inner city receive the support they need in the future. Your legacy will not only give inner-city residents the resources they need to improve the quality of their lives, but it will also enable us to fund innovative and effective organizations.



A gift of any size will help make a difference. Even a small percentage of the residue of your estate will help make a better life for people living in the inner city.

For more information on planned giving with Central City Foundation, please contact our office at (604) 683-2263 or development@centralcityfoundation.ca

With Central City Foundation your Legacy Gift can make a lasting impact on lives in the inner city:

\$1 million

Can build a treatment centre
and save young lives.

\$100,000

Can build housing to help
fight homelessness in the
inner city.

\$50,000

Can equip an inner city
daycare to ensure quality
early childhood development.

\$25,000

Can buy equipment that will
provide training to women
working to overcome barriers to
employment.

DONOR PROFILE

Helping to ensure change can happen in our inner city

Longtime Central City Foundation supporter Dr. Tom Cooney



"Being a donor to Central City Foundation for many years has been an honour for me and the Foundation has a special place in my life. The Foundation gives critical support for many inner city organizations allowing them to provide their much needed assistance in the area. Over the years I attended only a few Foundation meetings, but was most impressed with the dedication of both the Foundation staff and the frontline care workers, all of whom have my admiration. I am particularly happy that the benefits are felt right here in our city; and especially in these difficult times when the need is great. Although a donor's involvement is necessarily at arms length, at the Foundation one feels a definite personal involvement which is special. I appear to have become a 'lifer' as a donor, and look forward to continuing."

— Dr. Tom Cooney

FOUNDATION NEWS

New foundation team members



**Tina Larouche,
Manager of SPRE**

Tina is Cree from the Peter Ballantyne Indian Band in Northern Saskatchewan. With extensive experience

working in both the real estate industry and Indigenous non-profit organizations throughout BC, Tina has served on numerous local, provincial and national committees and boards. A former Vice-President of the Aboriginal Housing Management Association, Tina spent over a decade as Executive Director of Aqanttanam Housing Society. Tina's career has also included working as Director of Programs with Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society and collaborating with other community members to create the Kelowna Indigenous Housing Society. Welcome Tina!

In the press



The October 2021 issue of Advancing Philanthropy featured a story by Central City Foundation President & CEO Jennifer Johnstone about the power of collective leadership.



Central City Foundation President & CEO Jennifer Johnstone was recognized as one of the BC Business Women of the Year in the category of Nonprofit Leader.

Who is Central City Foundation?

Central City Foundation is the legacy that was created in 1907 when a small group of men and women in Vancouver came together to help their neighbours in need. We believe in the intrinsic value of human beings, in their agency and right to self-determination. All people have value, strengths and gifts to share with their community. By providing supports and addressing barriers, we are working to build a resilient, caring and inclusive community where it is possible for all people to overcome injustice, participate and thrive.

We believe there can be a healthier, more vibrant inner city that is a valued part of our larger community. Healthy and vibrant communities value social justice. People care for one another. Basic health and social services are assured. Safe and affordable housing is available. People have jobs, reliable income and other opportunities. Arts and recreation flourish. Children have the chance to play and learn. Streets are safe and neighbours are connected. To this end, we mobilize our capital for good. We help people in the inner city improve their lives by investing in social purpose real estate, capital grants, programs and subsidies. We are committed to community-led solutions. To respond to the evolving needs within our community, we continually seek to expand our deep understanding of the history and context of the issues. We are prepared to tackle the difficult problems that others will not.

On the traditional and unceded
ancestral homelands of the
xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam),
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish),
Stó:lō and Selilwəta? / Selilwitulh
(Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**CENTRAL CITY
FOUNDATION**