

CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION

CHANGE CAN HAPPEN  
Connection and Belonging

# COMMUNITY REPORT

FALL 2022



# FAiR iN THE SQUARE

**Save the date: Sunday June 11, 2023**

We're so incredibly excited to once again co-host this beloved event! We can't wait to join our many passionate neighbours, volunteers, community partners, artists and all others who cherish 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 2022

## CENTRAL CITY FOUNDATION

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

Fall 2022  
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Paper certification

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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](http://centralcityfoundation.ca)

# **Change Can Happen:** connection and belonging

# Message from the CEO



One of the important lessons for many of us from this recent pandemic is that human beings are hardwired for connection. Social distancing and the reality of being away from the workplace for so long have left many struggling.

Indeed, we have come to understand what scientists and social scientists have long concluded – that connection and belonging are key to physical and mental health, to life satisfaction and happiness and even longevity. The social ties that come with a sense of belonging are a protective factor. When we feel we are not alone and have support, we are more resilient, often coping more effectively with difficult times in our lives.

At Central City Foundation, we understand that for our friends in the inner city, connection and belonging are, in fact, life-changing and often life-saving. We've learned that connection and belonging are where change can happen.

Struggling to survive in the truly challenging conditions of our inner city, our neighbours face tremendous obstacles. Efforts by folks, especially Indigenous, Black and racialized people, to improve their lives also require overcoming the impacts of generational trauma, the challenges of poverty, the lingering harmful impacts of colonialism, systemic racism and inequality.

To support our neighbours, we continue our journey towards truth, justice and reconciliation as a philanthropic organization, building relationships rooted in mutual respect and self-determination, strengthening diverse leadership within our

organization and our community, consistently applying the learning we gain each day from those with lived experience in our community.

Building connections with culture and identity for those long dispossessed from their lands and culture, connecting and organizing with others seeking justice in our community, providing a safer place for young people to be able to drop in or connect with each other, connecting people with opportunities for work or learning, or striving to provide more than just housing, a home, are all efforts to create belonging in our community embodied in the incredible work of our community partners.

Whether it's providing a safe drop-in space at WISH, creating opportunities for employment and training at MP Enterprises, offering critical cultural supports at Urban Native Youth Association or the Phil Bouvier Family Centre, providing street outreach to women with the essential services of Battered Women's Support Services, welcoming newcomers at Immigrant Services Society, offering safe and affordable homes through our Central City Housing Society or providing an oasis of care at the Hastings Folk Garden, all are rooted in a deep commitment to building genuine connections and a sense of belonging among all the people who live and work in our inner city.

Throughout this year's community report, you will find some of these remarkable stories of building connection and belonging. From our amazing community leaders profiled in this year's Change Can Happen campaign to our wonderful community partners in whom we've invested your generous donations through grants or social purpose real estate projects, I hope you will enjoy learning more about how we are together changing the conditions of our inner city and helping people improve their lives.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Johnstone'.

**Jennifer Johnstone**  
President & CEO  
Central City Foundation



**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Sept 14 · 🌐

It was wonderful to reconnect with our community at [#FairintheSquare2022](#)! A tremendous thank you to our co-host [@myvcc](#), our sponsors, the many volunteers, community partners, performers, and neighbours who came together in celebration of the vibrancy and resilience of our inner city.



👍❤️ 19

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Aug 28 · 🌐

Our CEO, Jennifer Johnstone, is featured in this year's AFP/[@globeandmail](#) Philanthropy in Canada insert in an interview alongside Tanya Rumble addressing system inequity and reconciliation. [#AFPCanada](#) [#philanthropy](#) [#fundraising](#) [#belonging](#) [#equityandinclusion](#) [#nonprofitleadership](#)



👍❤️ 12

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
July 2 · 🌐

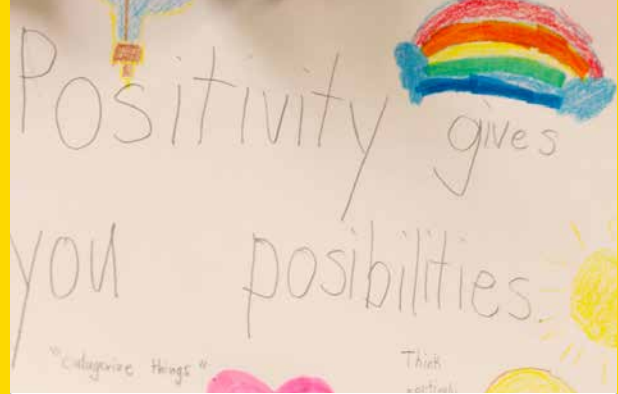
We invest in community-led solutions like the Safety Changes Everything Outreach team [@EndingViolence](#). Thank you [@CityNewsVAN](#) for this story about the important work being done to address gender-based violence in our community. [#dtes](#) [#BWSS](#)



👍❤️ 24

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
Mar 15 · 🌐

Change Can Happen. Episode 4: Helping inner city youth create better futures for themselves. This multi-part video series explores community-led programs, initiatives and ideas from our inner city that are helping people overcome injustice, participate and thrive. Watch at [centralcityfoundation.ca](#)



👍❤️ 34



**CCF** Central City Foundation  
April 10 · 🌐


We provide grants to organizations such as @kinbrace and @mountpleasantnh to help purchase kitchen equipment that's used for shared meals that help welcome immigrants and refugees into our community. Your support helps provide a welcoming and supportive new start for refugees and other immigrants. #community #refugeesupport



👍❤️ 12

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
March 22 · 🌐

Change Can Happen. Episode #2: The Transformational Power of a Job. This multi-part video series explores community-led programs, initiatives and ideas from our inner city that are helping people overcome injustice, participate and thrive. Watch at [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca)



👍❤️ 32

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
March 9 · 🌐

We are a strong supporter of Potluck Cafe Society's @potluckcatering capital project to renovate its new location which will increase their capacity as a catering social enterprise to train and employ even more community members in the inner city. A great example of a community led solution. Learn more at [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://centralcityfoundation.ca). #dtes #potluck



👍❤️ 21

**CCF** Central City Foundation  
December 14 · 🌐

Central City Foundation's President & CEO, Jennifer Johnstone, was a guest at Let's Talk About Relationships, Reciprocity and Reconciliation virtual event with @newschooloffundraising founder, Rowena Veylan. Visit The New School of Fundraising website to watch: [nsf.ca](http://nsf.ca)

Let's Talk About Relationships, Reciprocity and Reconciliation



👍❤️ 18

# REiMAGiNiNG HOUSiNG FOR OUR iNNER CiTY

Central City Housing Society's evolving approach to inner city housing puts greater emphasis on encouraging community connections and a sense of belonging.







"Not having a home impacts every aspect of your life. If we don't have a place that feels safe, a place where we can sleep at night, where we can keep the things that are precious to us, then it's a barrier to everything we need to do in our life."

- Jennifer Johnstone  
President & CEO, Central City Foundation

Central City Foundation has been providing safe, clean and affordable housing in our inner city since 1910. While there have always been neighbours in need of help, throughout the last few years, we have witnessed a profound and disturbing deterioration in the living conditions people experience in the Downtown Eastside and the broader inner city.

The COVID-19 pandemic left many suffering from isolation as health orders impacted supports and programs that continue to be hindered. There is an ongoing opioid crisis and an increase in gender-based violence. There is also a shortage of work and income-earning opportunities. Overall, we can clearly see that people in the inner city are struggling with deepening poverty.

One of the most significant challenges people in our inner city face is the desperate shortage of affordable housing solutions. There are simply too few places to live for people who are experiencing poverty. What's worse, being homeless or under-housed negatively impacts every aspect of an individual's life. When you have nowhere to sleep, every other challenge someone faces is significantly compounded. When you have to spend your time looking for a place to lay your head, any goals you might have are necessarily set aside. When you have nowhere to call home, it's almost impossible to move forward in your life.



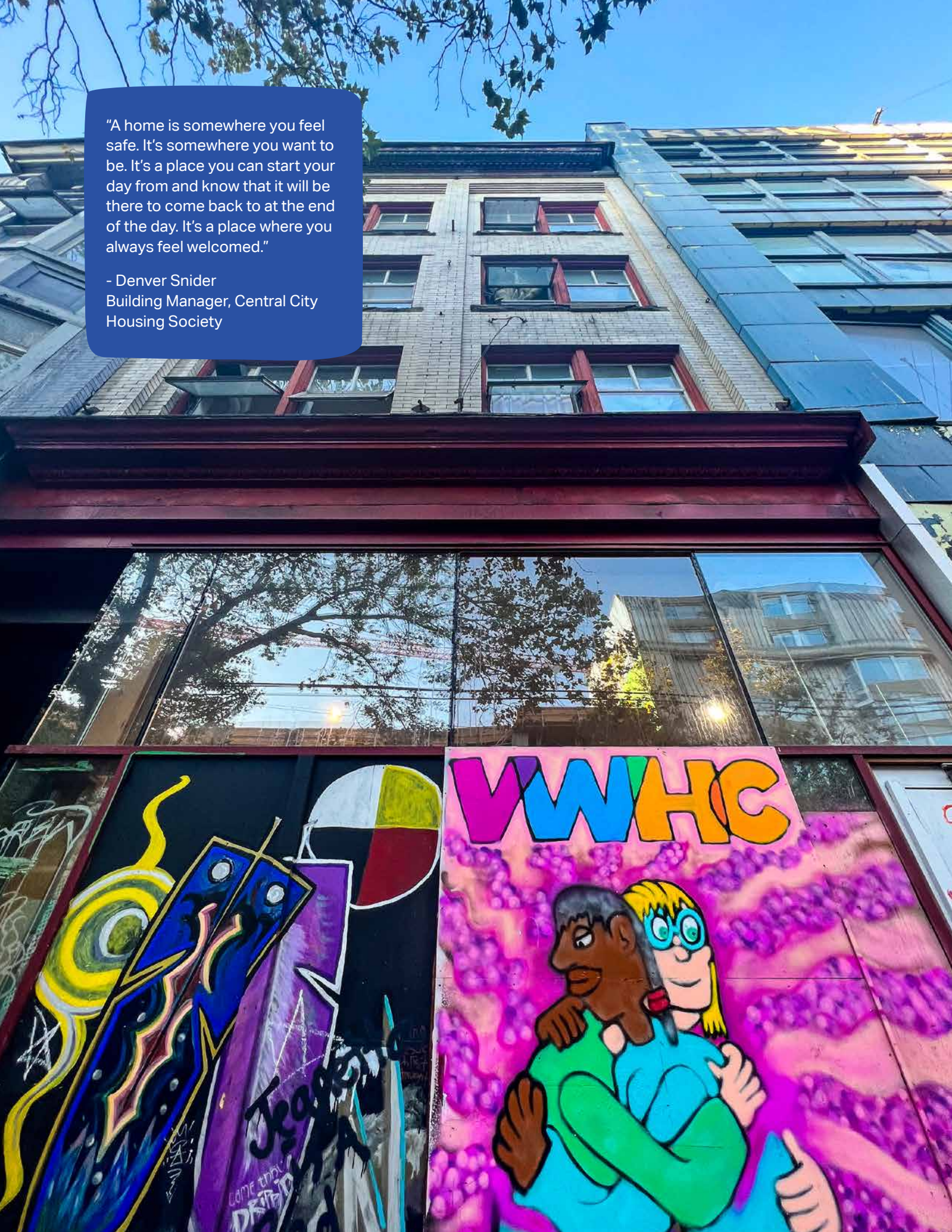
### Collaborative Housing Efforts

Central City Housing Society participates, supports, and maintains membership in a wide range of advocacy and policy development organizations, such as BC Non-profit Housing Association, Aboriginal Housing Management Association and Canadian Housing Renewal Association. We will continue to support these efforts to expand the scope of government funding, explore culturally inclusive housing models, build connections and belonging for community members and develop key policy priorities to address the housing supply and affordability crisis.



"A home is somewhere you feel safe. It's somewhere you want to be. It's a place you can start your day from and know that it will be there to come back to at the end of the day. It's a place where you always feel welcomed."

- Denver Snider  
Building Manager, Central City  
Housing Society







Some of our amazing new staff at Central City Housing Society

### **It's time to try something different**

While government, non-profits and the private sector will all need to play a key role, as an independent non-profit that owns social purpose real estate, Central City Foundation is uniquely positioned to reimagine housing solutions for our inner city. As a result, in 2022, Central City Foundation took the bold step to operationalize our housing society and begin operating our housing to better meet our goals and mission. We believe housing is an essential building block of connection and belonging for our community. In almost every case, before someone can pursue personal goals, build connections and participate in community, they must have a place to live. We continue to operate our housing without government funding. Despite the significant financial challenges, our independence provides the flexibility needed to innovate as we evolve our housing models for the inner city.

### **We're not just sheltering folks, we're building community**

For over 100 years, Central City Foundation has helped those with low incomes or other barriers to access safe, clean and affordable housing. However, we have come to believe the current conditions in our inner city require a more substantive, wrap-around solution. We understand that people in our inner city need to feel a sense of connection and belonging in order to move forward and improve their lives. They don't just need to be sheltered from the elements. They need to have a secure, stable, permanent home. This is why we are evolving our approach to inner-city housing solutions.

For instance, we're piloting programs like the Cosmo Woman's Transitional Housing Program. With this program, we hope to break down the silos between the housing sector and community-based support services to allow women to build a robust and portable network of supports and services on their journey from homelessness to permanent housing.

We also seek to address emerging needs for housing in the inner city. This includes such programs as workforce housing for people who are employed by local social enterprises or enrolled in employment development programs but are still homeless or living in shelters.

Central City Foundation has initiated work to redevelop our properties to replace single room accommodation units (which typically have shared bathrooms) with self-contained suites. We are also working to ensure that we are building for a future that includes everyone and moves us further along on our journey of truth, justice and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

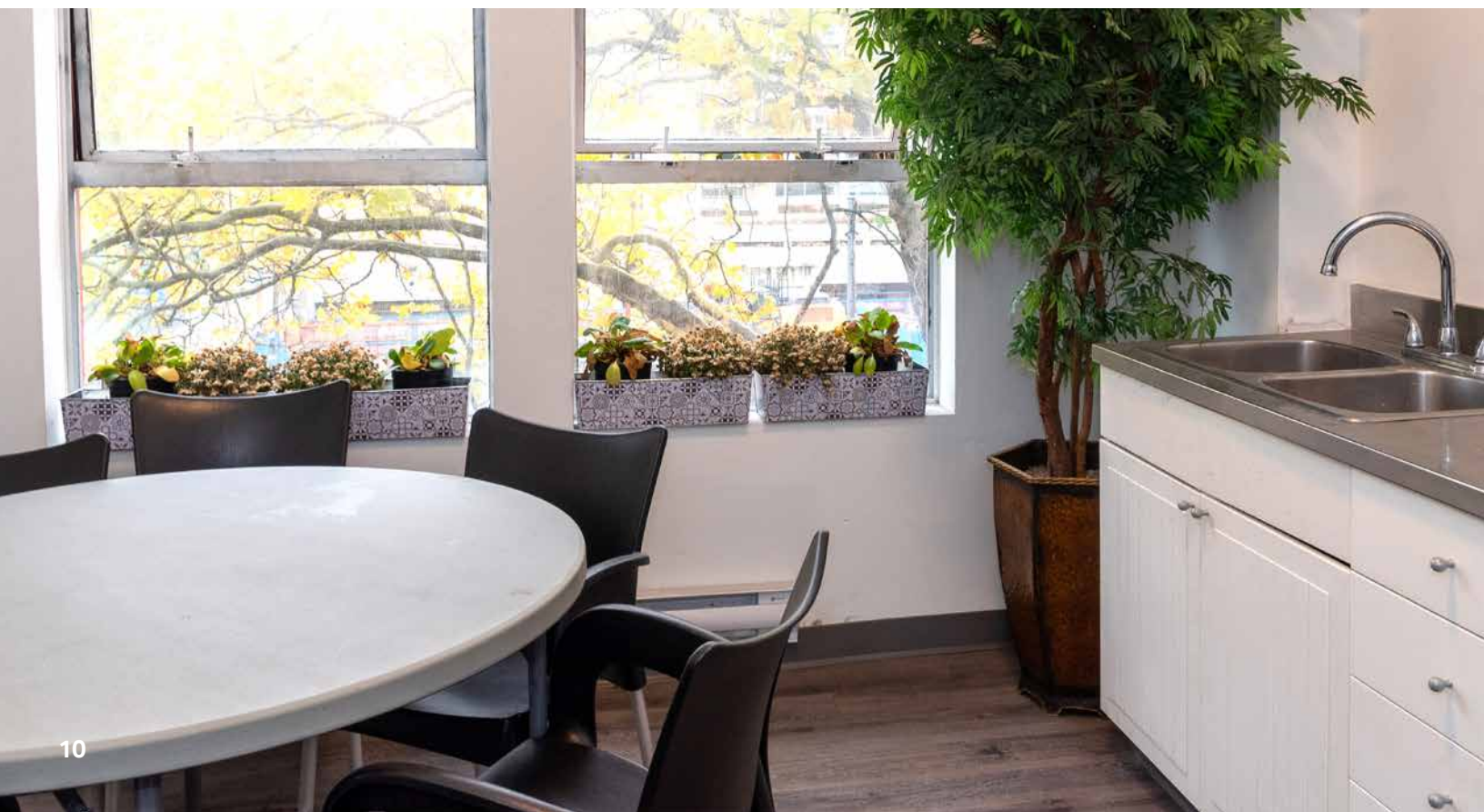
### How you can help

These innovative housing solutions are only possible through the support of Central City Foundation donors. When you make a gift to Central City Foundation, you're supporting community-led housing solutions for people in our inner city. We are committed to keeping our rents at the lowest shelter rate, but this means we must fundraise the difference in operating costs for each building – the costs for heat and electricity but also for the essential staff to ensure safety, offer opportunities for engagement and connect folks with the community supports.

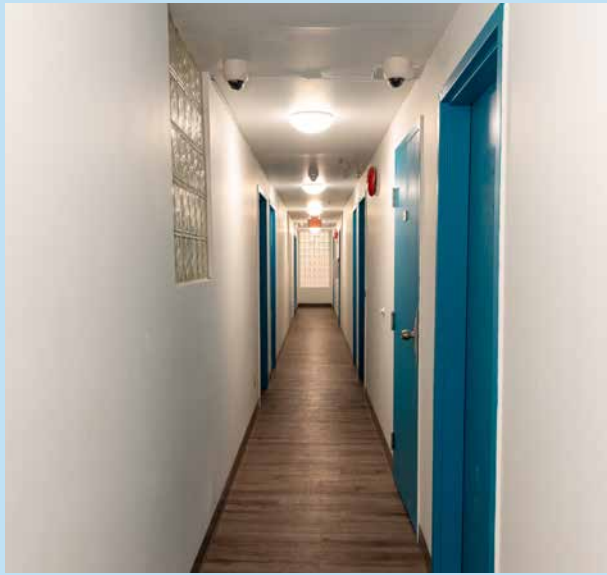


**\$700**

What it costs to provide a safe, clean, affordable home, a place to belong, for one person for one month.







### **Update on Cosmo Women's Transitional Housing Program**

As we reported in our 2021 Community Report, together with our Steering Committee partners, we have designed a program of wrap-around community-based supports and services to connect women now living in our transitional housing. Programs on-site include housing advocacy support, Indigenous cultural supports and activities, movie nights and cooking classes, trauma-informed yoga and more. In May 2022, women began moving into the rejuvenated

Cosmo. These women were transitioning from long stays in shelters (2 years for one participant). Some of the participants have been made homeless due to gender-based violence. All of these participants were looking for support on their journey to well-being. To date, five women have been supported to find employment with stable, long-term jobs. One participant, for example is a retail clerk at a local grocery store. We have also connected several women to trauma-informed counselling and group supports. Our goal is to have 30 women moved into the Cosmo before the end of 2022.

# CHANGE CAN HAPPEN

2022 Profiles of Community Leadership

Central City Foundation is once again celebrating eight examples of extraordinary community leadership. We are highlighting the dedication and determination of those whose support for community-led solutions helped people in our inner city and beyond and have demonstrated that change can happen in our community. As part of this celebration, we asked each of our profiled leaders to share with us their thoughts on leadership, community, and their relationship with Central City Foundation.

To read more of these in-depth interviews, please visit [centralcityfoundation.ca](https://centralcityfoundation.ca).





## RHIANNON BENNETT

*Co-Founder & CEO, Hummingbirds Rising Consulting*

Rhiannon is a tireless activist, consultant, facilitator, trainer and educator. She has been working to ensure individuals and organizations have the tools to decolonize their work and challenge systemic oppression.

"Inequity is systemic, and all oppressive systems are interconnected. It's important to change the systems, but that often means starting at a personal level and teaching individuals how and why those systems work the way they do. This information is intentionally withheld from Canadians, and it is why we've chosen to teach it at Hummingbirds Rising."



## CHRIS FRIESEN

*Chief Operating Officer, ISSofBC*

Chris has worked tirelessly to build connections and break down silos in the immigrant services sector to ensure the best services and supports for newcomers, including a quick and innovative response to meet the unique needs of Ukrainian refugees.

"We believe that welcoming, settling and integrating immigrants and refugees requires an all of society approach. Our collective impact is stronger when we work collaboratively with others including — governments, employers, neighbours, sector colleagues and other members of civil society."





## BINNERS' PROJECT

*Brianne DeMan, Manager, Charitable Programs, Davin Boutang, Community Specialist and Sean Miles, Director*

With perseverance and resilience in challenging times, the Binnners' Project has continued to provide equitable and accessible employment opportunities for community members who are often marginalized and facing multiple barriers.

"Not all people are able to work at the capacity level that most of us understand as formal employment, however this doesn't mean that these folks are not eager or able to participate in our local economies. Binnners' Project strives to meet people where they are at through creating flexible, low-barrier income opportunities focused around waste sorting. These programs serve the triple benefit of community economic development, social inclusion, and waste diversion."



## MARGARET PFOH

*Chief Executive Officer, Aboriginal Housing Management Association*

For over 25 years, Margaret has fostered community development through empowerment and respect. Recent AHMA collaborations have lead to critical programs and initiatives such as the 2021 Housing Strategy for Urban and Rural Indigenous Peoples.

"We want to make Indigenous homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience. We also want to ensure Indigenous people have access to a variety of housing solutions, including homeownership. We also want to support improved health and well-being of Indigenous people through safe, stable, and culturally appropriate housing programs and services."



Ahawl by textile artist Yolonda Skelton, Sugiit Lukx Designs



## MATTHEW SMEDLEY

*Executive Director & CEO, Mission Possible*

With Matthew's leadership, Mission Possible continues to offer accessible income-earning opportunities that also help provide a sense of purpose and worth for community members who are facing multiple barriers to employment.

"A job provides so much more than just a paycheck. Working alongside others builds meaningful relationships that help people break out of isolation and develop a sense of connection and belonging. This results in a renewed sense of dignity and self-confidence that helps to move people toward stability and healthier lives."



## MEBRAT BEYENE

*Executive Director, WISH Drop-In Centre Society*

Mebrat has relentlessly challenged the community to address women's safety in the DTES and has advocated for the need for a gender-based lens to the collaborative work being done through the Coordinated Community Response Network, as well as other collaborative initiatives.

"Community and belonging is fundamental to the people we work with. We provide a safe space with like-minded people who understand each other's challenges and see each others as people without the labels or shaming. It's so important for everyone to be seen, heard and respected for their experiences."





## SAMANTHA KEARNEY

*Manager of Development, My Sister's Closet, BWSS*

Samantha manages BWSS' social enterprise, My Sister's Closet, which celebrated its 20th-anniversary last fall. Her leadership has ensured that this Eco-Thrift Fashion Boutique has thrived at two locations plus an extensive online thrift store.

"Our ecothrift shops have become in many ways a community hub. They are a place where people are safe, friendly, and interested in in community-building. Community connections have made My Sister's Closet what is and what it continues to be – a successful social enterprise that has raised million of dollars for the support services and programs of BWSS since its inception in 2001."



## PALEXELSIYA LORELEI WILLIAMS

*Butterflies in Spirit*

Palexelsiya Lorelei has tirelessly and passionately worked in the community to demand justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Both individually and through the Butterflies in Spirit dance group she founded, Palexelsiya Lorelei is providing critical care, support and advocacy for MMIWG family members.

"For the longest time, I wasn't connected to anything really. I was ashamed of being Indigenous. I blame this on what happened to my mom and grandparents in the residential school system. When I started to feel connected to my community I felt like I belonged somewhere. That's when I found my voice. I feel like, if I didn't find that I would still be stuck in my trauma and pain. It was when I found my voice that I started my healing journey."





# SOCIAL PURPOSE REAL ESTATE UPDATE

## Phil Bouvier Family Centre

Culture, sustenance, child development, family supports, health and dental services, counselling, and connection, all deeply rooted in traditional Indigenous knowledge and wisdom, makes the Phil Bouvier Family Centre truly a place of belonging for hundreds of Indigenous families and children in Vancouver. Central City Foundation is honoured to support the Indigenous Early Years program of the Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society at this social purpose real estate location we created together in 2007.



## Aunt Leah's Place

Central City Foundation's goal is to build a resilient, caring and inclusive community where everyone belongs. 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.



## The Crossing

In this past year, Central City Foundation began a collaboration with Okanagan Nation Alliance to develop a new land-based, culturally safe and trauma-informed program firmly rooted in the traditional knowledge and culture of the Syilx people to support young people on their journey to wellbeing. Reconnecting with culture and identity is essential to healing from trauma and colonization for young people. The Crossing at Keremeos, located on the traditional unceded territory of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, will be home to this new program and will serve the far too many children and families

who continue to struggle with the challenges of addiction and mental health amidst our deadly drug poisoning and overdose crisis. Program development and a new business plan are underway. At the same time, negotiations with regional health authorities, the First Nations Health Authority and the Provincial Health Services Authority continue to secure ongoing operational funding.



# HOW YOU HELPED

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



## Potluck Café Society

Central City Foundation provided a grant to social enterprise caterer Potluck Café Society to support the final renovation costs of their new location. This larger facility will allow Potluck to diversify and double its number of new hires and trainees who face barriers to traditional employment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Potluck collaborated with other social enterprises and private companies to produce and distribute over 250,000 meals to Downtown Eastside residents. For over 20 years, Potluck has provided opportunities for training and employment (totalling more than 325,000 hours and over \$4 million in wages) while providing nutritious meals to residents in the DTES. Connection and belonging are infused in these meals and

in the service the Potluck team provides. They recently started a new summer initiative called "Beat the Heat," during which they served 540 cups of lemonade the first week of launching and 163 coffees on rainy days outside their location, with an additional fruit stand on Thursdays. Potluck is again stepping up to provide meals for folks in the Hastings Street encampment. This grant supports employment, purpose, food security and community connection.



## BC Aboriginal Childcare Society

Central City Foundation provided a grant to support the improvement of the BC Aboriginal Childcare Society's Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Head Start Preschool's outdoor environments. Located in the heart of the Downtown Eastside, Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Head Start Preschool is a very special childcare centre developed through extensive

parent and Elder involvement. The Eagle's Nest Preschool outdoor play space, and access to the centre, were very much in need of repair and improvements. BC Aboriginal Childcare Society's goal is "to create a culturally-safe environment for preschool-aged children and their families to share family traditions and culture, foster a love for lifelong learning and enrich all areas of development – emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual." They believe that parent and Elder involvement help make their program a success, and they strive to create a supportive community for their staff and families. This project is still underway, but BC Aboriginal Childcare Society advises us that staff and families are delighted with the progress made so far. "Our space is so much more welcoming, and it's safer and easier to clean and allows for more flexibility in the way that we can provide programming. We deeply thank the Central City Foundation for supporting our work and helping us on our path to create healthy, engaging, culturally specific spaces and programming for Indigenous children in Vancouver," says Kirsten Bevelander, Manager, Aboriginal Child Care Resource and Referral Program.





### Urban Native Youth Association

Your support helped Central City Foundation fund Urban Native Youth Association's (UNYA) Ravens Lodge, one of the only transitional housing spaces and programs for Indigenous girls ages 12-18 who are in the care of Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services. As an Indigenous-led organization, UNYA's guiding philosophy integrates both Indigenous & western perspectives, connecting to traditional teachings, cultural practices, and beliefs. Understanding the nature of trauma, they aim to accept youth without judgment. They respect youth as experts in their own lives. At all levels of their organization, they apply principles of self-determination and centre on lived experience in their programming. Ravens Lodge is a culturally welcoming home where UNYA provides young Indigenous females with the support and resources they need to thrive. This includes connecting youth to resources in the community while providing one-to-one support to learn life skills and self-care, focus on their health and work towards living independently. This program includes support for youth to keep strong ties with family and community. They provide connection and belonging that carries beyond the youths' time in

the program as the Lodge is open to all alumni for meals, connection, cultural activities and guidance. For Indigenous girls, especially those in the child welfare system, the world is truly a dangerous place. Indigenous girls are 12 times more likely to go missing than anyone else. The essential connections and supports provided by UNYA's Raven's Lodge create a sense of belonging that is both life-saving and life-changing for many.

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### Hives for Humanity

A grant from Central City Foundation supported Hives For Humanity's Hastings Folk Garden, which H4H describes as "a community-led garden and care space, a space of inclusion, dignity and connection to nature, healing and hope." The Hastings Folk Garden is cared for daily by members and residents of the Downtown Eastside community. It is home to a traditional sweat lodge, a therapeutic apiary, a medicinal pollinator garden, cultural and art projects, trees, hummingbirds, a red-tailed hawk and many native bees. We are inspired by Hives for Humanity's commitment and efforts to embody Reconciliation by ensuring urban Indigenous members take the lead in the development and implementation of programs and services at the garden, including seasonal celebrations, culturally relevant food, garden of care meetings and workshops in the community. H4H seeks to deepen their spectrum of inclusive and meaningful opportunity, from their low barrier experiential education workshops (18 workshops

with 200 participants annually); through mentorship and training and work experience. Through a strengths-based and trauma-informed approach, they build self-worth and community pride; through their enterprise, they work to alleviate poverty and empower leadership. Hives for Humanity is also collaborating with other community partners in their work, including SoleFood Farms, Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society and Insite, who are fostering connection and belonging through sweat lodges, ceremonies and memorials in the garden.



"In increasing capacity this year, we are gifted with the time to be slow and listen deeply to the wind, our breath, the trees, the earth and each other. We made that space for ourselves and our community through grounding and pruning, and what happened was magic. And because we were moving slowly, in circle and connection, we noticed. And what we notice, what we give our energy to, in deeply rooted connection, we may grow. Prioritizing self-care through resourcing ourselves with boundaries that are generous, firm and organizing towards big issues in small ways – setting the pace for the changes we long to see and the world we wish to build."

## Family Services of Greater Vancouver

A Central City Foundation grant has supported FSGV's goal of ensuring youth have access to youth-only spaces and services at their four Directions Youth Services sites. These sites include the Directions Youth Drop-in Centre, Safehouse, Detox Centre, and Haven. FSGV provides support, connection and belonging at these four sites to over 1000 youth annually. The Directions Youth Services Centre on Burrard Street in Vancouver is BC's only 24/7/365, low-barrier service for youth who are experiencing homelessness. The Central City Foundation grant has replaced worn furnishings deemed unsafe during a recent VCH Infection Prevention & Control visit at each of these sites. Providing safe spaces, resources and trauma-informed services for youth is at the core of FSGV's programs that help youth develop skills and knowledge and empower youth to create positive change in their lives.



## The Dugout Drop-in Centre Society

Your support helped fund Central City Foundation's annual grant to the Dugout Drop-in Centre Society. The Dugout's "community living room" is a place for individuals to spend time out of their single-occupancy rooms in a non-judgemental and welcoming atmosphere. Although the pandemic restricted their ability to keep their main indoor meeting area open, they did not miss even one day for nutrition provision as they mobilized to serve food on the street outside their location. They re-opened their "living room" in phases as

public health restrictions allowed. The Dugout continues to employ members of the Downtown Eastside community, including a group of 20 – 25 volunteer drivers who pick up donated food from various grocery stores for the Dugout. The AA group that has used the Dugout space since its inception continued online during the pandemic but is returning to have more and more in-person meetings as their members desire. The Dugout is committed to finding ways to offer more affordable food and grocery alternatives to community members without sacrificing quality despite the impact of inflation.

## THERE'S MORE!

For more detailed beneficiary reports about how you've helped these and other community-led solutions, visit [centralcityfoundation.ca](https://centralcityfoundation.ca)



# COLLABORATION UPDATES

Central City Foundation is strengthening connections in our community through our convening role and participation in community collaborations. Learn more about the incredible work of these groups:

## **Coordinated Community Response Network (CCRN)**

The CCRN was created at the start of the pandemic to ensure resources and services were effectively coordinated to provide safety, connection and nourishment for residents of the inner city. The CCRN continues to meet weekly, building relationships among more than 50 community organizations and ensuring a timely and focused community response to crisis situations in the Downtown Eastside, and advocating for systemic change. In addition to providing funding to ensure staffing for the CCRN, CCF continues to provide leadership as a member of the facilitation team.

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## **TRRUST Collective Impact**

Central City Foundation continues to engage with the TRRUST Collective Impact Collaborative group, which works to improve the conditions for youth aging out of government care focusing on housing, education, meaningful connections, health, wellness and culture. TRRUST CI uses a collaborative impact model that brings young people, service providers and allies together to work to improve the outcomes for youth transitioning out of

government care. The Youth Leaders of TRRUST continue to inspire us through this work and their tireless efforts.



## **Feminists Deliver**

Feminists Deliver, a grassroots collaboration of more than 25 diverse organizations, is continuing to build an intersectional, anti-oppressive and decolonial network of activism across BC to address the inequities faced by women and gender-diverse people. Feminists Deliver is actively building this movement across BC and beyond, working together to develop community-led solutions providing in-depth policy analyses, and amplifying initiatives of its member organizations. Central City Foundation continues to provide funding support, and our CEO is the co-chair of Feminists Deliver.

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## **Exchange Inner City (EIC)**

Exchange Inner City is a collaborative group that works to foster a vibrant, inclusive and equitable local economy in the Downtown Eastside while also

working to influence systemic change. EIC is working hard to influence businesses and governments to expand the use of Community Benefit Agreements and social procurement that directly benefit inner-city community members. CCF is a member of EIC and directly supports many of its member social enterprises.

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## **SPRE Collaborative**

The Social Purpose Real Estate Collaborative (SPRE) is a group of funders and investors that strategically engage with and support social purpose real estate in BC. The members of this Collaborative work together on strategies to assist not-for-profit and social enterprise organizations with their real estate needs. CCF remains a leader in this collaborative and provides regular consulting to organizations and local governments working on policies and projects.

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## **Funders Connect**

Funders Connect is an informal network of private and family foundations, philanthropists and funding partnerships hosted by Central City Foundation that provides an opportunity to improve philanthropy in our local community, ensuring funding is reaching many of the equity-deserving groups in the inner city while working to improve grant-making and philanthropic investments across communities.

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FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2022

**With your support, we are helping to ensure a sense of community and connection in our inner city through our unique housing model that positively impacts the challenging conditions faced by people living in our community.**

For over 100 years, Central City Foundation has existed to help people in our community cope with current challenges while creating a more hopeful future. We believe in the intrinsic value of all human beings. By providing access to a home, a place to belong, we are working to build a resilient, caring and inclusive community where it is possible for all people to overcome injustice, participate and thrive.

**Your gift to our annual campaign will have a lasting impact on those who need a home in our unique housing model and will help people in the inner city improve their lives.**

**\$1,000**

Will provide one day of comprehensive support services and help build a sense of community & belonging for our residents.

**\$700**

Will help us to provide a safe, clean, affordable home, a place to belong, for one person for one month.

**\$250**

Will ensure access to life saving cultural supports led by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Community Elders.

Please give generously to support Central City Foundation by donating at [centralcityfoundation.ca](http://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 e-mail [development@centralcityfoundation.ca](mailto:development@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](mailto: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

# Building connection through giving

New Central City Foundation donor Jessica Skuk of From:Us Gifting



From:Us Gifting Company strives to strike a balance between convenience and care to gift in a way that enriches lives. Thoughtfully curated, every item is handpicked from Canadian artisans for its form and function. In a time when we all have been disconnected from the people and places that uplift us, the celebrations that make our life most rich, From:Us provides an opportunity to connect in a meaningful and impactful way.

Founder Jessica Skuk started From:Us in 2019 with the simple goal of packing as much goodness into each box as possible. By approaching the act of giving as an opportunity to build community, Jessica and her team weave together the lives of those who give and receive gifts, together with the dedicated artisans and the organizations they support through their giving back program.

Each year, From:Us gives back 2% of its sales to Canadian non-profits providing support and resources to vulnerable communities. While they're proud to watch both their business and their capacity to contribute to their community grow together, the most important thing - for all of us - is the intention with which we give.

This careful intention is what attracted Jessica to Central City Foundation. While vetting their 2021 charities of choice, Jessica felt immediately aligned with Central City Foundation's values of connection to community and the diversity of programs we support in the inner city. In addition to focusing on community-led initiatives, our proactive approach to sustainability through social purpose real estate resonated with Jessica's mission to challenge the status quo through disruptive compassion.

We are so grateful for Jessica's support and for being a valued ally in elevating the importance of connection in our community. Thank you for your generosity, Jessica!





# FOUNDATION NEWS



## **Meet Our New Board Chair: Leslie Varley**

A member of the Killer Whale clan of the Nisga'a Nation, Leslie is a committed social justice advocate. She is currently Executive Director of the British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC). Previously, Leslie held the Indigenous health portfolio at Provincial Health Services Authority, where she co-led the development of San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training. As a result of experiencing and observing ongoing Indigenous-specific racism, Leslie developed a life-long passion for addressing racism towards Indigenous people. Her community work has focused on ending structural racism and violence against Indigenous people, particularly towards women and girls. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Simon Fraser University and resides as a guest on Lekwungen Territory in Victoria.

Under her leadership, the BCAAFC has undertaken a series of exceptional projects, including launching the "SafeSpace App" that allows Indigenous people to report racism within the healthcare system without fear of backlash, and that has garnered a remarkable response with over 10,000 reports to date. BCAAFC leads the Path Forward Community fund to provide support for safety planning and capacity building to strengthen culturally safe solutions across BC and has published numerous reports and recommendations for change in our communities, including most recently, in partnership with Battered Women's Support Services, "The Road to Safety: Indigenous Survivors in BC Speak Out against Intimate Partner Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic" which details the results of a year-long research project. Beginning in 2022, BCAAFC, in partnership with the University of Victoria, will welcome students into a new and first-of-its-kind MBA program, Advancing Reconciliation.

Leslie has been a member of the Central City Foundation Board since 2017 and has played an integral role along with our Board of Directors in helping to guide our decolonizing journey towards a new model of community stewardship rooted in our commitment to Truth, Justice and Reconciliation. We are very excited that Leslie has taken on the role of Chairperson this year and will help ensure our next steps along this path will lead to the best possible stewardship of the remarkable community legacy that is Central City Foundation.

# 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 Səlilwətaʔ / Selilwitulh  
(Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**CENTRAL CITY  
FOUNDATION**