

BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

# ANNUAL REPORT

| 2023



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## 2023 Snapshots



Fin the Whale on International Women's Day.



Volunteer Garden Work Party.



Skateboard Committee meeting.



Orange Shirt Day at Grandview Park.



Fresh paint on the walkway by Giles.



A rainbow over Gym D.

# About Britannia



Britannia Community Services Centre Society originated out of 1970s cooperative community action. Local citizens and various civic agencies created the organization in 1974 to coordinate and integrate a wide range of human services to meet the interests and needs of residents. The Centre had its official opening in June of 1976.

Britannia Community Services Centre Society operates as an independent agency from other City services. Through a locally elected Board of Management, the non-profit society provides a leadership role in developing and facilitating recreation, arts, social, and education services to the neighbourhoods of Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona. The Society functions under the British Columbia Societies Act and is governed by a Board of Management made up of 16 elected members, including two youth positions and representatives from our partner organizations.

In collaboration with the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, the Vancouver Public Library, and the Vancouver School Board, the Society manages an 18 acre site on the unceded lands of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skw<sup>x</sup>wú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. Our facilities include a pool, ice rink, fitness centre, boxing room, gymnasiums, meeting rooms, a public library, the Teen Centre, the 55+ Centre, child care facilities, an elementary school, a secondary school, the š<sup>x</sup>w<sup>q</sup>eləwəñ ct Carving Centre, and multipurpose facilities.

## Board of Management 2023 - 2024

### Executive Committee:

President Annie Danilko/Pamela Dudas  
Vice President Pamela Dudas/Craig Ollenberger  
Treasurer John Flipse

**Executive Members:** Ariela Friedmann  
Nicki Simpson

**Directors:** Tom Chang  
Susanne Dahlin  
Farren Gillaspie  
Pat Hogan  
Norm Leech  
Vera Jones  
Terumi Squibb  
Oliver Tennant  
Naina Varshney

### Youth Directors:

Ama Birch  
Sam Quastel

### Partners:

Vancouver Public Library Timothy McMillan  
Vancouver School Board Rose Mackenzie  
Community Education Coordinator Maddie Lafleur

### Senior Staff:

Executive Director Cynthia Low  
Manager of Administrative Services Jeremy Shier  
Manager of Child Care Jacky Hughes  
Community Recreation Coordinator Peter Odynsky  
Manager of Organizational Change Suzette Amaya  
Office Administrator Marina Montiel-Mahseredjian

### Liaisons to Britannia:

Vancouver Park Board Tom Digby

## Society Objectives

1. Develop and encourage new arrangements for coordination and integration of community services provided by a variety of agencies and individuals.
2. Provide a centre for social action, a place where people meet to discuss the local area and neighbourhood problems and work together to solve them.
3. Advocate and support Reconciliation in collaboration with Indigenous peoples within the mandate of the Centre and in the context of historical, social, and systemic inequities for Indigenous peoples.
4. Maintain two-way communication between the Centre and the community to ensure awareness of community needs, and to inform local citizens on the availability of programs and services.
5. Provide means of community involvement in the development and delivery of all programs with which the Centre is associated and thereby making such programs responsive to changing needs.
6. Provide local citizens with access to all programs and services in the Centre.
7. Sponsor, and where necessary, operate programs and services in the community.
8. Ensure that the necessary staff and facilities are available to achieve the above.

## Mission & Vision

### **Our dream:**

*The wellbeing, sense of belonging, joy, and empowerment of everyone in our community.*

### **To realize our dream:**

*We are stewards of spaces that support social connection, creativity, recreation, reconciliation and the realization of the full potential of people and communities.*

*In partnership with our communities, we create integrated programs, services, and opportunities on the unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaꞤ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.*



## 55+ Centre

- We supported Indigenous-led 55+ Centre programs by offering a biweekly schedule of activities, and helped to transition to a restructured Weaving Community Together program by participating in hiring panels and strengthening community connections. This transition took place as we received a new funding stream.
- Britannia Centre and the 55+ Centre team supported the attendance of 14 Indigenous community members to the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Elders Gathering on August 15-16. All of the Elders were very appreciative that they could attend and gave thanks to the 55+ Centre for valuing Elders and seniors, and promoting connection with peers and culture.
- We created a new Facebook page for the 55+ Centre. All things related to the site—staff, programs, workshops, events, etc.—are posted on this new page.
- We hosted a Britannia Art Gallery Exhibition and Gala to celebrate cedar weaving, beading, artworks, and drumming by the Elders and seniors of Britannia. The exhibition also featured our other seniors groups, like Quirk-e, the ukulele players, and Friday Wellness participants. The event acknowledged the dedication of community members to continue connecting through virtual and in-person programs throughout the previous years.
- 55+ Centre members handcrafted 150 felt feathers and gifted them to each Britannia Secondary 2023 graduate, along with a special message.
- We collaborated with REACH Community Health Centre for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cross-Cultural Community and Health Wellbeing Fair on October 20, 2023. Over 30 agencies participated.



## Vietnamese Seniors

- We co-ordinated and participated in the free volunteer-run Tax Clinic to help seniors and low-income families file their income tax returns.
- We helped low-income seniors to find affordable housing through BC Housing and the SAFER programs.
- Many seniors participated in special events throughout the year, and summer bus trips.

## 2023 Program Highlights



Cedar weaving with Todd DeVries.



Simon Daniel James in the Carving Centre.



Micro Footie Program.

### Arts & Culture

- Thank you to the Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Committee for organizing our first Black History Month event in partnership with the Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society.

### Britannia Art Gallery

- C + S Planning Group, the Arts & Culture Committee, and community members came together to conduct a review of the Britannia Art Gallery. We reviewed the space, the curator position, as well as the vision, mission and values of the Gallery.
- We added the Alcoves (enclosed displays outside of the Pool building) to the Gallery portfolio, showcasing local artists in the main walkway through the site. YouthLead Arts (featuring art from a Grade 7 class), and Art Ecosystem were among the first groups to showcase their work in the Alcoves.
- Thank you to Danais Yera Guerra and Jess Sung for coordinating a variety of group shows featuring emerging artists while we conducted the review and posted the new Curator position.

### šx<sup>w</sup>q<sup>w</sup>eləwən ct Carving Centre

- In partnership with the Vancouver Park Board - Parks Activations Team, we offered summer programming in Grandview Park. We hosted Elder Seislom's drumming group on Mondays and Todd DeVries' cedar weaving workshops on Tuesdays.
- We activated the Carving Centre in the summer with artist Simon Daniel James, who taught community members how to carve. With thanks to the Neighbourhood Matching Fund, we were able to cover the cost of tools, cedar panels, snacks, and instructor fees.
- Artists Arthur Bolton and Corey Bulpit joined us in the fall, offering drawing, design, and painting workshops through the Weaving Community Together program.
- We celebrated all the incredible carving that took place in 2023 by having an exhibition in the Britannia Art Gallery from December 2023-January 2024, called "Carving Our Way".

### Markets

- Our second Shine: Intercultural Spring Market took place on April 30, and Plaza Markets took place every Wednesday from July to October, showcasing local artists, makers, and community groups.
- The Winter Craft Market returned as a three-day market. We hosted 60 vendors and community groups, as well as many performances throughout the weekend.

## Child & Youth Programs

- Britannia Teen Centre continued to be an active and lively space. 60+ youth dropped by daily to hang out, play ping pong, pool, foosball and video games, connect with adult role models, and inquire about local services and resources.
- The Youth Committee planned a Holiday Youth Skate, which was very well organized and attended.
- With a continued need for afterschool and evening programming—fitness, basketball, soccer, dance, science, music, literacy, cooking, social programs and more were offered for a variety of age groups from Kindergarten to Grade 7. Programs changed seasonally to keep everyone engaged.
- A walking school bus program was created to get kids from additional schools in the catchment to the onsite programs.
- Funseekers Daycamp continued to be an extremely popular and in-need program for families during the winter, spring and summer breaks.
  - Seasonally, between 60-100 young people attended camps each week, with many referrals to the program from the Britannia Community Schools Team and Britannia Elementary.
  - Many local young people were hired as leaders and given the opportunity to develop leadership skills, gain work experience, and receive mentorship and support from experienced staff, as they helped supervise and facilitate safe and fun programming for the kids in our community.
  - Many of the leaders continued working throughout the year in a variety of capacities.

## Latin American Youth Program

- Youth participated in the Latin Youth Art Project, creating art in a variety of mediums that focused on Latin American Identity. Some of their paintings were based on memories and recollections of places, feelings and experiences from their home countries and also from their journey of integration here in Canada. Their work was displayed at Britannia Art Gallery, where a small reception was held and the community was invited to celebrate their art work.



## Sports & Fitness

- We offered over 350 sport and fitness programs in 2023. Over 6000 children, youth and adults registered for programs and over 5000 community members dropped in to our sport and fitness programs. Britannia received over 300,000 participant activity visits.
- Micro Footie and Britannia Gymnastics Club continued to be the largest programs, with almost 2000 participants annually, and more than 700 people on waitlists. These two programs continued to generate much of the revenues that fund our youth and 55+ programming.
- Each week Britannia offered approximately 48 hours of children's and 70 hours of adult fitness programs, using only 67 hours of gymnasium time per week.
- Partnerships with Axe Capoeira, Sportball Canada, Gymnastics BC, Zumba Fitness, and Micro Footie have added to the continued success of this program area.

# 2023 Program Highlights

## Food Security

- The Britannia Bulk Buy Food Club responded to community need and doubled in size again in 2023. 143 families participated and 227 people were served.
- We offered 13 workshops in 2023 and had over 150 participants. Community members learned about garden planning, seed starting, pollinators, sweetgrass, food preservation, and how to make art and self-care treats from plants.



## Pool & Fitness Centre

- Danny Hui joined us as our new Pool Programmer, providing the needed stability to help us rebuild services, revitalize programming, and address repairs to the aging facility.
- Access and inclusion remained a top priority; the Society subsidized access for community members and we are now looking for more ways to give access to school and camp programs.
- We had a number of staff changes at all levels, bringing new eyes to our operations and helping Britannia remain current and efficient; their energy is appreciated.

## Volunteer

- Our volunteers continued to be the backbone of many programs and initiatives, including Board and committee roles, senior and youth programs, and the Bulk Buy Food Program. Our volunteers' active engagement, selfless commitment, enthusiasm, and enduring efforts are vital in promoting a sense of unity and resilience among community members, underscoring the invaluable role of volunteers in driving positive change.
- In 2023, Tax Clinic volunteers filed 797 tax returns (nearly twice as many as 2022!), meeting the strong demand from the community. This achievement is a reflection of the unwavering dedication and hard work of our volunteers.
- The Micro Footie program was fortunate to welcome 101 volunteer coaches. Their engagement has been pivotal in the continued success of this popular program.



Stick & Puck at the Rink.



Dreamcatchers workshop with Ruby Harry.



Wool Weaving with Deanna Lewis.

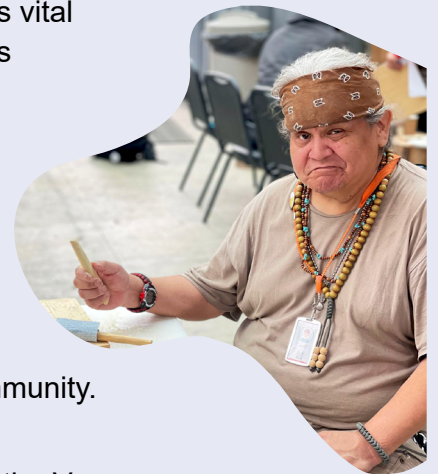


## Rink

- The Rink was back to full operations after a long closure in 2022. The Vancouver Adult Co-ed Hockey League continued to be popular, as did the Britannia Co-ed Hockey League, and the Women & Gender Diverse Hockey League.
- Free Public Skates continued to see great attendance, exceeding 100 patrons each session.
- The Britannia After School Hockey (BASH) hockey program returned with great success.

## Weaving Community Together (WCT)

- Throughout 2023, the Manager of Organizational Change—Suzette Amaya—worked to build the WCT program to include weekly Indigenous arts and cultural activities, accessible to all folks of all ages. Programming days include Tuesday evenings in the Rink Mezzanine, Thursday afternoons in the 55+ Centre, Sunday afternoons the Rink Mezzanine and CFEC, and Indigenous Elders Tea & Bannock on Fridays.
- WCT classes are instructed by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers in the community from diverse Indigenous Nations across Turtle Island. Workshops included Coast Salish Wool Weaving, Acrylic Painting, Traditional West Coast Wood Carving, Ribbon Skirt & Shirt Making, Traditional Tea Making, Beading, West Coast Button Stockings, Dreamcatchers, Mini Moccasins, and Hair Braiding.
- Outreach and building relationships with Indigenous communities was vital to connect with Knowledge Keepers, as well as increasing Indigenous participation at Britannia.
- Summer programming took place in the ʂxʷq̓eləwən ct Carving Centre, including a carving class with Master Carver Simon Daniel James, as well as weekly workshops with Knowledge Keepers Deanna Lewis and Ruby Harry.
- WCT supported Aquatic Leader, Brenlee Rempel, with the FitNation aquatic fitness program at the pool. This program has been successful in promoting interconnectedness within the 55+ community.
- WCT hosted and partnered on several special events, including:
  - National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, in partnership with the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society (VAFCS), Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society (VAHS), Indian Residential School Survivor Society (IRSSS), and Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre (VACPC). The event started with a smudge at VACPC and pancake breakfast at the VAFCS, and continued with a walk to Grandview Park for entertainment. The event was well attended by community and vendors.
  - An Orange Shirt Day march and event at Grandview Park on October 30, which was attended by thousands of community members. In partnership with IRSSS, VAFCS, VACPC, the event included words of remembrance and resilience from survivors in the community. We created Orange T-shirts with art by KC Hall, with proceeds going to WCT Indigenous programming.
  - The Halloween Family Dance Party, which filled up Gym D with hundreds of participants.
  - A Holiday Jingle & Mingle, which brought together 2023 Knowledge Keepers and participants.



## Message from the President

Annie Danilko was president of Britannia's Board of Management in 2023; she had been on the Board since 2017 and a volunteer for much longer. In that time and in 2023, she was instrumental in leading the Britannia Renewal—the project to rebuild the Britannia Community Centre for future generations—as well as leading reconciliation efforts that will continue to benefit residents. The Society is so grateful for her intellect, dedication, and indomitable spirit.

On the surface, it appeared in 2023 that most of our fee for service programs returned to pre-pandemic levels. However, at a micro level residents continue to deal with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and long COVID, not just at a physiological level but at a systemic level as well. Financially, emotionally, and spiritually—people are still suffering with loss of capacity, grief, and anxiety. In response to these ongoing challenges, our staff worked hard to offer diverse and inclusive programming, to keep the pool and rink open, and to help local families and seniors. We also welcomed new Indigenous-led programming via the Weaving Community Together program and the Reconciliation in Action team, led by Suzette Amaya. As the Manager of Organizational Change, her role is to support us in welcoming new patrons and user groups, and operating with best practises in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

We completed two very important and timely reviews for the Britannia Child Care Hub and the Britannia Art Gallery. For child care, increased funding support from different levels of government was a huge benefit to children and parents; this change also came with new requirements for the Society to plan strategically for the future of child care in our neighbourhood and beyond. There will be no impacts to the quality of our child care programs or the number of spaces available; however, there may be changes to how child care is administered and managed in the future. Our goal is to develop better systems for the delivery of services, and advocate for more services in our community.

Long time Curators Haruko Okano and Bernadine Fox stepped down in 2022 after generously serving the Britannia Art Gallery (BAG) for over 20 years and making our little gallery a beloved gem in the community. The transition period was a good opportunity for us to forge a new path for the gallery by implementing the BAG review. In this process, we talked to community members and local artists to understand how the BAG served the community and what should happen in the future to retain the values of the space. The working group drafted a vision for the BAG and made recommendations, including criteria for hiring a new Arts Administrator and Curator.

By the end of 2023, we received great news from Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver School Board. Our elected officials unanimously supported advancing the Britannia Renewal. We send our appreciations, and we look forward to working more closely with the City and VSB to rebuild the Centre for future generations!

For 2024, the Renewal will continue to be one of our top priorities, as well as:

- Addressing current needs and lack of appropriate facilities for community programs;
- Strategic planning and implementation of the Society's child care strategy;
- Capacity building and training for staff, volunteers, and the Board;
- Relationship building, community engagement, and outreach;
- Better communications internally and externally to our community.

Sincerely,

Pamela Dudas, President

## Message from the Executive Director



It's no surprise that 2023 was a challenging year, both globally and locally. Despite the beauty, diversity, and uniqueness of human nature, our capacity for understanding and empathy faced many challenges. At Britannia, we extend our deepest gratitude to our staff who persevered through personal and institutional challenges to keep our facilities open and operating. From our cashiers and program assistants to our facility and accounting clerks, and managers—we extend a heartfelt thank you!

We welcomed great additions to the Britannia family in 2023. Suzette Amaya, Manager of Organizational Change, assumed a completely new and unique role, and has been assessing institutional shortcomings and individual biases with grace and determination. Her presence has brought joy, light, and immense satisfaction to our work, making difficult tasks rewarding. Suzette made changes to the Weaving Communities Together program by inviting diverse Indigenous cultures and worldviews to the Centre, while also supporting more local Knowledge Keepers in finding a home as instructors here.

We welcomed new programming and facility staff, who have all played a part in enhancing our level of service and expanding our range of programs. We recognize the indispensable contribution of our auxiliary staff, who support our regular staff and maintain our facility during the most challenging times, including weekends, evenings, and holidays.

Even though we have limited programming spaces, our staff utilized what we have effectively, resulting in significant benefits for the community. Our spaces were utilized at least 80% of the time, with our gyms being particularly popular whenever available. This high rate of use was achieved through partnerships with various community groups, including the Blue Eagle Cadets, Canucks Autism Network, the Open Air Orchestra, Qmunity, the Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society, Haida Child & Family Services Society, Sage Nation, and others.

Britannia's Board of Management has remained dedicated to ensuring good financial management, governance, and community-centered accountability. They strive to balance the needs of diverse community groups, while advocating for sustainable and healthy programs and services for all residents. The Board's leadership regarding reconciliation and the Britannia Child Care Hub are profound and essential in ensuring that the Society collaborates with the community to maximize service to the neighbourhood, both now and into the future. It has been an honour to serve both the Board and the community.

In gratitude,

Cynthia Low  
Executive Director



## Message from the Manager of Child Care Services

The Britannia Child Care Hub is made up of Britannia Child Care, the Eagles in the Sky Child Care Association, Grandview Terrace Child Care Society, and Mount Pleasant Child Care Society. We provide over 250 licensed spaces, and oversee over 50 regular educators and over 20 auxiliary educators in various settings across the locality.

The Britannia Child Care Hub is unique in that we support three independent parent-led Societies, while working with Vancouver Coastal Health, Aboriginal Child and Family Support Services, the Vancouver School Board, the City of Vancouver, BCGEU, the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network and many others. We share the responsibility of identifying, understanding and supporting the needs of families and children in our community. It is with our community partners that we strive to provide a range of safe, stimulating, nurturing, and high quality programs that respect and embrace each child and family.

### 2023 Highlights

- Britannia collaborated with consultants to develop options for new partnership models that would define and support the Child Care Hub (CC Hub). Changes to the current CC Hub model will support the changing landscape in ECE, including new Provincial and Federal child care mandates and funding models, the City of Vancouver Child Care Strategy, Canada-wide universal child care initiatives, and increased requirements for quality of care. The Britannia Board of Management voted to move forward with a model that would support the future of child care in our community through amalgamation.
- Britannia, on behalf of the child care Boards, completed a successful collective bargaining round with the BCGEU and external child cares. The new collective agreement is in place until December 2024.
- Britannia Child Care Hub provided opportunities for training and education in pedagogical work and learning circles. Britannia, along with Aboriginal Supported Child Development and Vancouver Supported Childcare, hosted workshops for all Brit Hub OSC educators. Britannia also hosted several leadership workshops for Senior Supervisors.
- CC Hub Educators attended the Early Childhood Educators of BC Conference in May 2023.
- The Hub continued collaboration with the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network (ECPN) to bring a Pedagogist to the Hub programs. We also partnered with Capilano University for practicum student placements.

### 2024 Priorities

- Britannia will be collaborating with consultants and the CC Hub Societies to carry out the new CC Hub model.
- We will support the transition to new Provincial and Federal Child Care initiatives.
- Britannia Child Care Hub collective bargaining will commence.
- We are planning training and education for staff in pedagogical work, leadership skills, guiding and caring, as well as a full day child care conference in October 2024.

Sincerely,

Jacky Hughes  
Manager of Child Care Services

# Message from the Manager of Organizational Change

After a year in this new role, it's been a wonderful journey to support ReconciliAction and expand Indigenous inclusion through Weaving Community Together (WCT) Indigenous programming. I've worked to build meaningful partnerships and relationships in the community, as well as supported changes in how Britannia connects with diverse communities through outreach and relationship-building. Through engagement with committees and connecting with instructors and Knowledge Keepers, it's been wonderful to see allyship, excitement for growth and change, and increased inclusion and equity for BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members. As we work together to better serve our diverse communities, we can see the value in hearing from community members, meeting folks where they are at, and creating accessible programming. The Britannia team is on a wonderful path of learning the importance of Reconciliation and honouring the land on which we reside, the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

## 2023 Highlights

- We developed a weekly schedule of WCT programs, led by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers.
- The Reconciliation in Action Committee met monthly, with Indigenous voices and allies guiding the work we do towards Reconciliation, as well as prioritizing Indigenous inclusion, equity and accessibility.
- We developed a branding and social media strategy to outreach to Indigenous folks and promote participation in WCT and other Britannia programming. We've seen increased Indigenous participation across many programs and services.
- Throughout 2023, we hired Indigenous Program Assistant II positions to support the WCT program, and in early 2024, we hired Denise Johnson as the WCT Indigenous Programmer.
- UBC First Nations and Indigenous Studies practicum student, Cecilia Rainwater, conducted research on an Elders in Residence Program for Britannia and held sharing circles with community members. A report on the findings is to be completed and shared with the community in 2024.
- We supported the Mother's Day Traditional Powwow Committee with planning and hosting the powwow from May 12-14, and then we supported a transition to the Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society (VAHS) as the supporting organization for 2024.
- We supported the VAHS in hosting the Father's Day Powwow on the Britannia site over Father's Day weekend, which was a great success and has been scheduled at Britannia again in 2024.
- We welcomed Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society to the site to host Indigenous Markets in the Plaza throughout the summer, and Wednesday Night Powwow held weekly powwows onsite until the fall.

Gilakas'la (thank you in Kwak'wala of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation) to the community for including me in this journey forward with ReconciliAction. The beautiful diversity of the Grandview Woodlands and Strathcona neighbourhoods contributes to a Britannia village where people find fun, cultural safety, learning opportunities, and wellness through arts and culture, sport, and recreation. Moving forward, we are dedicated to creating a reconciliation strategy and action plan that includes the TRC Calls to Action, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Through relationship-building with the three Host Nations, we are excited to move forward in a good way to adhere to protocol and take care of the lands on which we reside.

Huy ch q'u (Thank you in Halkomelem of the Coast Salish peoples),

Suzette Amaya (Kwakwaka'wakw, Coast Salish, Nisga'a, & Cree), Manager of Organizational Change

## Message from the Community Recreation Coordinator

In 2023, our programs continued to be in high-demand, and we had many long waitlists this year as our facilities were stretched to meet expectations and extended to important community-led programs. The programmers continued to be creative problem solvers, as we offered more programs and worked even closer with our returning community partners.

As we were back to a full slate of programming, we approached our operations in more thoughtful, inclusive, and intentional ways. We prioritized building capacity and expanding inclusion, and this directed our work in a number of areas, including:

- Expanding staff and volunteer Indigenous cultural competencies through a series of in-services and workshops;
- Working with the community and our partners to support community-led programs and events;
- Moving forward our reconciliation efforts in meaningful ways; and
- Reducing barriers to access with free programs and by promoting the Leisure Access Program.

### Human Resources

Personnel changes over the year included:

- Danny Hui took on the challenge as Pool Programmer, and provided stability after a revolving door of pool and fitness centre staffing.
- Denise Johnson joined us as our new Weaving Community Together Programmer. Thank you very much to the 55+ Centre team, who carried us through the program transition.
- Victoria Buffalo Robe started as our ʔxʷqʷeləwən ct Gardener and has done an amazing job at raising garden programs from previous highs.
- Inhwa Jung left as he took on a promotion within the City, and Dean Andrews came on to lead our Pool and Rink Maintenance team as our new Maintenance Technician.
- Manuel Gamas has come back as our Latin American Youth Worker and continues to be an inspiration and leader in the community.

### The Future

As Britannia continues to navigate phases of the Renewal, it is increasingly important for us to go farther and provide programs and services with extra value to the unique communities in our catchment. It will be further important that we define that historic value to ensure that our renewed site will enrich our tradition of community service. While maintaining relations with our existing partners, we also must look for new opportunities and partnerships off site so that we can mitigate any gaps in services and programs through the Renewal process.

We all, some settler and some visitor, acknowledge and are grateful to the Coast Salish peoples as we work and gather on the traditional, unceded and ancestral lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Together we commit and bare witness to the truth, listen and learn about residential schools and their lasting generational impact on survivors and their families.

With thanks,

Peter Odynsky,  
Community Recreation Coordinator

# Grandview Woodland Food Connection



We did a lot of learning and growing in 2023. We worked with local residents to define greenspace in a way that works for our community. We also strategized ways to support community-based, accessible, just, decolonized, and sustainable local food systems with the Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks and Vancouver

Food Justice Coalition; staying connected and working together allows us to work collaboratively towards systemic change!

We continued to grow our school gardens programs and worked with our partners the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) to design and build new garden beds in the SOYL garden, as well as to deliver garden lessons to over 200 students from Britannia Elementary School. The Britannia Secondary students connected with the ʂxʷqʷeləwən ct (One Heart One Mind) Garden by removing invasive species. They also put in a lot of work in the Nexwáys wa lh7áynexw (Transformed Life) Garden and helped steward the Mary Jo Garden. Victoria closed the year out in a good way by making calendula salves with 11 classes. Overall, we provided 98 garden lessons to over 320 students in 16 classes!

Our Britannia Bulk Buy Food Club nearly doubled in size in 2023, helping to ensure that low-income folks in the community had access to fresh and healthy produce while connecting with their neighbours and saving money through a dignified and community-centred program. Our dedicated volunteer team put in over 792 hours of their time for our 47 distributions and 1550 orders. Because of the team's efforts, we were able to increase participants by 46% over the year and add an extra distribution day each month. We are so grateful for our partners,—Discovery Organics, Choices Markets, and the Greater Vancouver Food Bank—who provide supplemental donations and rescued food for the program. We also partnered with Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society (VAHS) to connect Indigenous families with the program. A new refrigerator in the Ice Rink Mezzanine has allowed us to rescue more food than ever—about the same weight as a couple of elephants in 2023 alone!



Victoria, Jet, and Noah brought community members together in our gardens, where 67 volunteers put in 444 hours and supported the gardens' growth year-round. The peak of the growing season happens when the schools are on summer break, so our community gardens team is essential to our food security programs. We hosted 30 group garden drop-in sessions, including garden build days, peer-to-peer skill shares, planting, harvesting, weeding, and of course watering. We built bug hotels to support pollinators, bird baths to keep bees and birds hydrated in the summer, and a Harvest Stand to share our veggies with the community.

The Grandview Woodland Food Connection also took part in land-based decolonization work by reintroducing the ancient memory of the land to our urban gardens. We partnered with Ancestral Food Ways, Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation, and Collingwood Neighbourhood House to make a bokashi compost together and nourish the land. Some of the most precious ingredients in our bokashi were the corn stubble from Indigenous Foodland Garden at Strathcona Park, Tsleil-Waututh ashes from ceremonial grounds, Squamish Forest microorganisms, and salmon bones and heads from Sparrow Smokehouse.

Warmly,

Ruth Elizabeth Briggs  
Community Food Security Coordinator

## Message from the Treasurer

As Treasurer of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank the Board members who elected me again for their trust and support, as well as the members of the Finance Committee for their commitment to Britannia. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee oversee and are responsible for the Community Centre's operating budget of \$10.01 million for the 2024 fiscal year. Revenue is derived from a variety of sources, including the City of Vancouver who funds core functions such as programming, administration, and maintenance. Monies received by a wide variety of other grants, contributions, and registration fees augment basic funding as well.

In 2023, Britannia completed the year with a small surplus of just under \$30,000, or 0.3% of revenues. Although Child Care programs and Reconciliation programs operated in a deficit, Britannia Recreation programs offset these deficits and did show a strong surplus in 2023. As per Britannia's Annual Surplus Policy, a transfer of \$139,677 to the Britannia Foundation is being processed in 2024. These reserves will provide long-term sustainability for the Centre, and will ensure that Britannia can provide services to the Grandview Woodlands and Strathcona communities for years to come.

Sincerely,

John Flipse  
Treasurer

## Message from the Manager of Administrative Services

Administration at the Britannia Community Services Centre includes finance and accounting, human resources, and facilities. In fiscal 2023, Britannia Society completed the year with an audited annual surplus of \$29,903. Similar to other years, Britannia utilized a financial model in which some programs produce surpluses to cover the deficits of other programs. In 2023, Britannia's 5 Year Reconciliation Plan completed its first full year of operations. Although Britannia received some grant funds for this project, costs were higher, and the programs operated in a planned deficit. Hence, the Reconciliation Plan reserve was reduced by \$86,231. This was offset by strong surpluses in recreation programs and Board discretionary spending. Child Care programs are now all funded by the provinces \$10/Day Child Care program and are therefore in a sustainable position.

I would like to take this time to thank the entire Britannia Administration team for their hard work day in and day out. This includes front desk, cashier, accounting, and facility support staff. This year, in particular, I would like to thank Marina Grzac, Britannia's receptionist, who will be retiring this June after 25 years of service at Britannia.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Shier  
Manager of Administrative Services



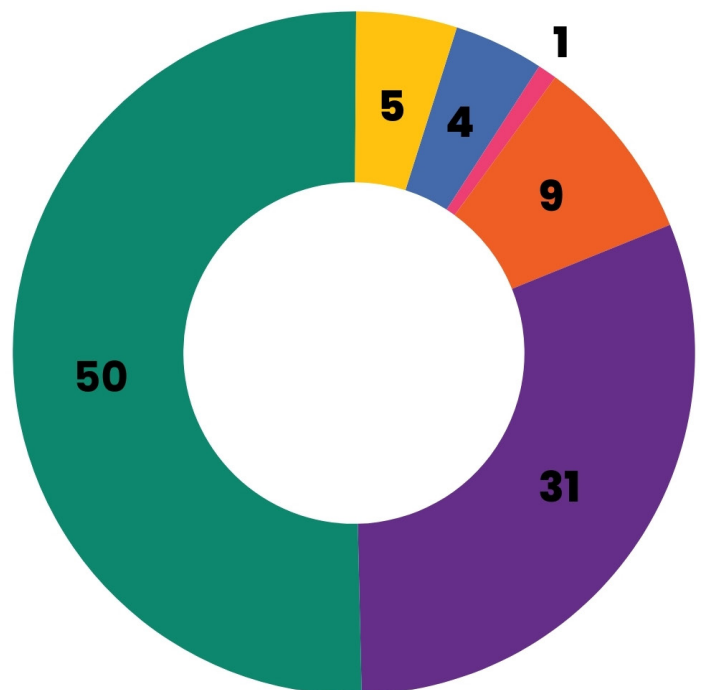


## Statement of Operations

Revenue	2023	2022
City of Vancouver (Operations)	4,882,871	4,973,700
Rink & Pool	1,264,131	874,695
Donations, Membership Fees, & Special Events	148,987	111,723
Licensed Gaming	149,132	237,951
Rentals	15,247	3,916
Interest	35,130	6,865
Britannia Community Services Foundation	90,358	67,570
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	19,755	19,757
Reconciliation Programs & Events	327,301	
Child Care	1,037,023	890,137
Recreation	1,479,276	1,371,491
Community Education	437,602	491,876
Other	1,333	1,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,888,146</b>	<b>9,051,399</b>

2023

## Revenue



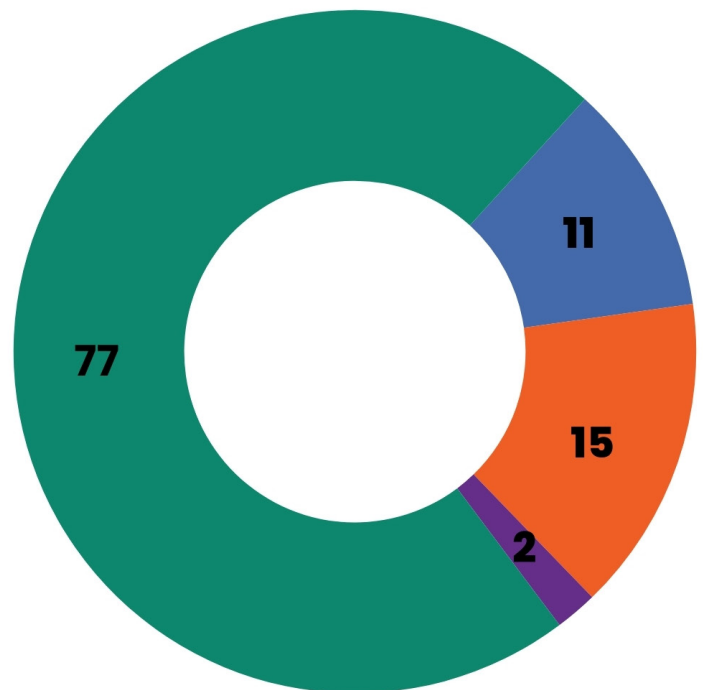
# Finances 2023

Expenses	2023	2022
Maintenance and Operations of Buildings, Equipment, etc.	2,420,849	2,272,621
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits (Society)	1,786,485	1,658,576
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits (Parks Board Staff)	1,854,829	1,787,020
Administration	215,921	220,214
Licensed Gaming	149,132	237,951
General Programs	135,755	349,065
Reconciliation Programs and Events	413,532	
Child Care	1,021,179	859,207
Recreation	1,373,482	1,083,149
Community Education	454,669	472,176
Other	768	1,316
Amortization of Capital Assets	31,643	35,537
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,858,244</b>	<b>8,976,832</b>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses Before Undernoted	29,902	74,567
Transfer to Foundation		(290,000)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	29,902	(215,433)

2023

## Expenses

- Salaries & Benefits
- Maintenance & Utilities
- Program Expenses
- Administration



Statement of Financial Position		
Assets	2023	2022
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash	171,882	1,022,785
Short-term Investments	1,040,676	291,610
<b>Accounts Receivable:</b>		
City of Vancouver	813,477	678,968
Other	322,259	263,691
Investments	626,566	659,272
Capital assets	507,083	538,726
Due from City of Vancouver & Parks Board	268,800	268,400
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,750,743</b>	<b>3,723,453</b>
Liabilities	2023	2022
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	305,583	314,226
Deferred Contributions	438,991	371,285
Deferred Revenue	244,545	256,888
Due to Related Parties	869,011	964,088
Employee Future Benefits	316,500	306,800
Working Capital Advance	81,000	81,000
Deferred Capital Contributions	474,001	430,156
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,729,631</b>	<b>2,724,443</b>
Net Assets	2023	2022
Invested in Capital Assets	96,682	108,570
Internally Restricted	924,430	890,440
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,021,112</b>	<b>999,009</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>3,750,743</b>	<b>3,723,453</b>

# 2024 Plans

## 1. Facilities: Current Needs & The Renewal

- Ensure existing spaces are in good working order for next few years.
- Work with the City and VSB to plan for a preventative maintenance of facilities, and where possible, enhance customer experience and our storage capacity.
- Explore options to expand programming spaces on site, as well as off-site opportunities.
- Communicate clearly to the community the objectives of the Britannia Renewal, update all information channels, and rebrand the Renewal.
- Proactively work with City and partners to move the Master Plan forward, with the completion of Phase 1 as a priority. Explore fund development for Building 1.

## 2. Child Care: Strategic Planning & Implementation

- Commit to undertaking long-term, future-oriented planning for child care to best serve the families in the Britannia neighbourhoods. Design a process that includes parent voices in governance.

## 3. Staff, Board & Volunteer Capacity Building & Training

- Establish a working group to assess staff training needs (including contractors and instructors); implement quarterly training sessions that include diverse training modalities.
- Develop and implement training sessions for Board, committees, and volunteers.
- Develop and implement a youth mentorship program to train local youth for employment as Society staff.

## 4. Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

- Review and revise the Society's 5 Year Reconciliation Plan according to the emerging needs and goals of the Reconciliation in Action Committee, and as per the Manager of Organizational Change.
- Review City social trends reports, census information, and Society registration data to identify at-risk resident populations, and align programs to support and build resilience for these residents.
- Set goals and targets to increase Leisure Access Pass registration and no-cost/low cost programming.
- Deepen relationships with existing community partners to address gaps in programming.

## 5. Relationship Building, Community Engagement & Outreach

- Identify opportunities for relationship building, particularly with Vancouver School Board and City of Vancouver.
- Deepen collaborative approaches with community partners to ensure alignment with Society objectives and 2021-2025 Strategic Plans.

## 6. Communications

- Redesign the *britanniacentre.org* website, including creating an internal site for staff, board members, and committee members to discuss and share information internally.
- Expand community engagement by sharing stories that reflect the character and heart of Britannia.
- Develop consistent communications systems and build a culture of mutual receiving and sharing of information.