



**STRATHCONA**  
**COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**2020**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
601 KEEFER STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6A 3V8  
604-713-1838

STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE IS JOINTLY OPERATED BY  
STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION  
AND VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), s<sub>k</sub>w<sub>x</sub>wú7mesh (Squamish), and selílw' itulh (Tseil-Waututh) nations.





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---



- 01.** Board of Directors & Staff - p.1
- 02.** SCCA President's Report - p.2
- 03.** Community Recreation Supervisor's Report - p.4
- 04.** Recreation Programmer's Report - p.7
- 05.** Recreation Programmer's Report - p.8
- 06.** Food Security Report - p.10
- 07.** Childcare Report - p.13
- 08.** Community Youth Worker's Report - p.15
- 09.** Remembering Daisy Chin - p.17
- 10.** Thank You To Our Supporters - p.18



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Dawn Hoogeveen

**Vice-President:** Deb Miller

**Treasurer:** Ella Chan

**Past President:** Holly Alyea

**Directors:** Maria Reimer Caitlin Jones Emma Carscadden

Osaro Obaseki Dan Jackson Christina James Mark Nishiguchi

Katie Lewis Carrie Bercic Fariborz Ghaem-Maghami

# COMMUNITY CENTRE STAFF

**Acting Community Recreation Supervisor:** Karen Chow

**Recreation Programmer:** Jennifer Taylor

**Recreation Programmer:** Adrianna Teoh

**Community Youth Worker:** Gabe Dennis

**Recreation Facility Clerk:** Jenny Lee

**Arts, Culture and Engagement:** Brenda Racanelli

**Childcare Manager:** Veronica Light

**Food Security Coordinator:** Khalid Jamal

**Acting Manager Recreation Services:** Luke Balson

**Park Board Commissioner Liaison:** Camil Dumont

# SCCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020-2021 has been a challenging year for many. As we continue to navigate the global COVID-19 pandemic, impacts have been experienced at the Strathcona Community Centre. SCCA and Park Board staff have stepped up to serve the Strathcona community, amidst this challenging time.

In 2020 we completed our strategic planning process and are working towards dissemination and implementation.

In the summer of 2020, our Food Security program led by Khalid Jamal adapted the Backpack Program to help those in need continue to receive food, even though the centre was closed. We are looking to expand our Backpack Program through the summer this year, under Khalid's leadership.

Childcare, led by Veronica Light, worked hard to operate and provide care to children of essential service workers throughout the summer of 2020. We are grateful to have such strong staff leads who continue to provide food and childcare for the Strathcona community.

The SCCA had a successful online celebration of the Lunar New Year, with a series of videos of community members sharing their traditions.

On February 14th, the annual DTES Women's Memorial March in memory of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls took place, and Strathcona was honoured to have served once again as a hub for the red ribbon skirt sewing project, to give skirts out for the March.

2020-2021 also saw a formal partnership formed with the Eric Ming Community Hero scholarship. Many thanks to Ron Suzuki and Greg Eng among others, including board member Osaro Obeseki for helping shape this collaboration. Osaro shot some hoops while representing the SCCA Board of Directors at this year's annual Hoop-a-Thon, which was performed virtually.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT, CONTINUED

We continue to have active conversations on a facilities level with the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School Board, in hopes of revitalizing the former school library as a multi-use space in support of childcare and other community centre and school programming, with Lord Strathcona Elementary.

The centre continues to support the Neighbourhood Small Grants program, with thanks to Roberta Robertson for her ongoing facilitation with the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC in support of this program.

Youth Programming has been working at decreased capacity due to COVID-19 but continues to move forward, including in the youth lounge. Outdoor summer camps at MacLean Park were a big success last year and we're gearing up for another season of Super Sunshine fun!

Park Board employee and long-time Seniors Programmer Liza Tam retired in 2020 and we miss her presence after 22 years of service with the centre. Welcome to Adrianna Teoh who has taken on Liza's Programmer role. Congratulations also goes out to Jenny Lee who celebrated her 20th anniversary working at the Strathcona Community Centre. We are so grateful for the SCCA's wonderful staff.

A final note of thanks to Luke Balson, for bringing us through the pandemic, with time deployed in other communities of need during the onset of COVID-19. It is a pleasure to be currently working with interim Community Recreation Supervisor Karen Chow.

Dawn Hoogeveen  
SCCA Board President



# COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Strathcona Community Centre is the hub of this community and offers many vital programs such as Childcare, Food and Recreation. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a very different year from past years. On March 16, 2020, Vancouver Park Board closed twenty-six community centres including Strathcona Community Centre due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the CCA and Park Board staff were laid off due to the closure of the community centre.

From April to September, Paul Biln, Community Recreation Supervisor, stepped in to help oversee Strathcona Community Centre while Luke Balson, Community Recreation Supervisor, was asked to supervise Evelyn Saller Centre for six months due to the pandemic.

## **Board of Directors**

- In conjunction with the Vancouver Park Board, SCCA was able to offer a modified Summer Day Camp Program and some outreach Youth Programs out of MacLean Park.

## **Staffing**

- On July 6, 2020, Veronica Light, SCCA Childcare Manager reopened 20 Licensed Childcare spaces for children of Essential Service Workers.
- Khalid Jamal, Food Security Coordinator, distributed food out of Maclean Housing to provide food security for the community throughout the summer.
- Liza Tam who was the Seniors Recreation Programmer retired in March 2020 after working at Strathcona Community Centre for 22 years. She made a tremendous impact in programming for our Seniors' and Family Programs.

# COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT, CONTINUED

- At the end of April 2020, Jennifer Taylor, our centre's Recreation Programmer, was laid off from her position and was recalled back in June to activate the Outdoor Summer Day Camp. The Summer Day Camp ran for 7 weeks from July 20 to September 3, 2021 at MacLean Park. We offered 20 spots for children and it was held rain or shine with local walking trips in the neighbourhood. Jennifer also scheduled some outdoor programming at MacLean Park in August.
- In July, Gabe Dennis, Youth Worker, was recalled to activate the parks to outreach to our youth in the community.
- Jenny Lee, our Recreation Facility Clerk, was brought back in mid August to help reopen the community centre.



We Take Care of Each Other Mural by Ann Marie Slater, Scott Chan & Coleman Webb



# COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT, CONTINUED

We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful staff team at Strathcona Community Centre. Everyone did an amazing job navigating through the Provincial Health Order guidelines with each new update. It was a difficult year but the staff worked hard and handled change well. On September 8, 2021, Luke Balson and the Strathcona staff team reopened the community centre to the public to offer community programs after creating and implementing an extensive safety plan.

The pandemic has really pushed us to be flexible with changes due to the Provincial Health Authority guidelines. Strathcona Community Centre Association has worked hard in the last year in putting policies in place. Although I am temporarily acting for Luke Balson, I look forward to working with the Strathcona Community Centre Association and all the staff at Strathcona Community Centre in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Chow  
Acting Community Recreation Supervisor



# RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT - CAPC, FAMILY & SENIORS

The start of 2020 was off to a great year at Strathcona Community Centre for the portfolio Liza Tam has built over the years with CAPC, Seniors and Family Programs. Each activity had a fantastic turnout each week where our registration was reaching individuals and families from different ethnicities within our community.

Programs with great turnouts were Tai Chi, Peking Opera, Stroke Club, Wellness Programs, Qigong, and our Arts, Health & Seniors Programs. Biweekly, there was never a dull moment in our facility on Wednesdays during luncheons prepared by our very own volunteers and seniors in the community. Unfortunately, due to the state our world was in, we had to close the facility in March. Fast forward six months to September, we were able to reopen to the public and invite our community back in.

Due to restrictions, we started off bringing back Tai Chi for our seniors and they were ecstatic. Programs were full and everyone was excited to see each other again, safely from a distance of course. One of the Tai Chi Programs we had brought back was one of the only senior programs that became self led on a weekly basis outdoors at Maclean Park throughout the closure. We are looking forward to the future when we can bring our community patrons back to our regular programming.

Adrianna Teoh  
Recreation Programmer



# RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT- CHILDREN & ADULTS

On March 16th, 2020 we received the news that Community Centres were closing at 4pm, ultimately to remain closed for 6 months, and reopen under the conditions of a COVID Safety plan that is completely foreign to the well-established, community-based model of Strathcona CC. It was a rough year. Prior to that fateful call, we had a successful winter 2020 programming season. Some highlights include:



- The completion of our “Language and Traditions of the Haida” program, in partnership with the BC Language Institute
- Continuation of our fully registered music lessons
- Our ongoing Feasting and Recreation partnership with Red Fox
- Our ongoing commitment to provide weekly, free arts programming with Arts Umbrella
- New programs including Capoeira, Traditional Indigenous Hair Braiding, and a low cost Yoga-For-Kids partnership with Yoga Buggy
- The triumphant return of Family drop-in Badminton
- Learn-to-Play Pickleball that grew to capacity, with a waitlist
- Return of ProD Day Camps

# RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT, CONTINUED

Following the Centre closure and resulting layoffs, I was recalled with the opportunity to offer a very limited, 100% outdoor day camp for July & August, which the SCCA generously agreed to partially subsidize, allowing us to offer day camp for the last 7 weeks of summer. We worked in close partnership with Strathcona Licensed Childcare and Kidsafe, to coordinate and communicate our approach, working to meet the summer child engagement needs of as many neighbourhood families as possible. It is important to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of SCCA Day Camp, Childcare, and Food Security staff members who made themselves available to work in these vulnerable frontline positions during what was an exceptionally scary and uncertain season.

During that unusual season, necessity led us to the joys of summer outdoor fitness, and free Zumba classes offered at Maclean Park – also the home of pop-up music!

Fall 2020 saw the return of modified indoor programming. Most children's recreation has been authorized to return, albeit at a much lower registration capacity, and with zero physical contact. The Adult portfolio was in constant flux, with continuous changes in Provincial Health Orders bringing relentless starts and stops. Despite the flexibility, adaptability, and commitment of our instructors and participants, all adult programming was ultimately suspended by year's end.

We are very much still rebuilding, still recovering, still 'settling in' to this current, yet ever-changing reality.

Jennifer Taylor  
Recreation Programmer



# FOOD SECURITY REPORT

Strathcona Community Centre's Food Programs support the community through food access, food skills programs, and opportunities for community connection. In 2020, many Strathcona community members faced incredible challenges, including sickness, income loss, and disruption of social connection and community leading to isolation and worsening mental health. On top of this, food insecurity increased sharply at the start of the pandemic and has remained high since then. Through the Food Programs, we aimed to address food insecurity and support the community in any way we could. This report is a summary of our activities in 2020.

## **Start of the Year**

In early 2020, SCC Food Programs included the Breakfast Program, the Strathcona Backpack Program, the Strathcona Childcare Snack Program, and various food skills and land-based workshops and classes. A highlight was a partnership with the Good Soup Truck, who offered soup to anyone passing by in front of the community centre on Fridays. All programs were paused at the end of March 2020.

## **Strathcona Emergency Food Hub**

In mid-April, we created the Strathcona Emergency Food Hub (SEFH) in partnership with BC Housing. The SEFH provided food hampers to community members experiencing food insecurity. The hampers contained produce, eggs, tofu, bread, rice and other non-perishables, and essential need items like toilet paper, laundry soap and diapers. At its peak, we distributed over 400 hampers each week to Strathcona households, supporting around 1,400 community members. In October of 2020, we ended this program to refocus our effort on community centre-based activities.



# FOOD SECURITY REPORT, CONTINUED



Food hampers at the Strathcona Emergency Food Hub

## **Strathcona Backpack Program**

The Strathcona Backpack Program provides food each week to families with school-aged children in Strathcona. In March 2020, we paused operation of this program, and resumed in October. To prioritize the safety of program participants, staff, and volunteers, we developed a new distribution system, moving from market-style food distribution to pre-packed hampers. In 2020 the number of participants increased substantially, and we were able to double the amount of food that families receive through this program. Between the Strathcona Emergency Food Hub and the Strathcona Backpack Program, we distributed around 20,000 food hampers and 42,000 prepared meals in 2020.

# FOOD SECURITY REPORT, CONTINUED



Fruit cups served at the Breakfast Program

## **Breakfast Program**

The Breakfast Program provides a nourishing meal every morning for students of Lord Strathcona Elementary School. In March 2020, we paused the program, and resumed in September. We moved from an in-person sit-down meal to pre-packed bagged breakfasts served outside in the school courtyard. In the fall of 2020, we produced 100 breakfasts every morning. Popular menu items included French toast, yogurt parfaits, and breakfast burritos. Our Breakfast Buddy student volunteer program, a key part of the Breakfast Program, is currently on hold.

Through 2020, in addition to operating these core programs, we worked closely with community partners and donors to identify and address emerging food insecurity. The pandemic has been challenging but has also provided an opportunity to come together as a community, and to build and strengthen relationships. In 2021, we continue to deepen community connections and take care of each other as best we can.

Khalid Jamal  
Food Security Coordinator

# CHILDCARE REPORT

## **Strathcona Licensed Childcare**

During the reporting period April 2020 to March 2021, Strathcona Licensed Childcare experienced the COVID-19 pandemic along with the rest of the planet. We went from March 2020, when all the schools and community centre facilities were closed, to today when we are fully open and operational.

With the SCCA Board's leadership and generosity we were able to support childcare staff as they transitioned to federal financial supports. In addition, we were able to maintain their benefits while laid off. This commitment to their safety allowed all staff to return to work as they were called back.

On July 6, 2020 Strathcona Licensed Childcare re-opened childcare for essential service workers. The support of the Ministry of Children and Family Development Health and Safety grant allowed us to operate for all families who were vetted by the provincial system as essential service workers. It wasn't a perfect system, but the advantage was that operators weren't responsible for determining whose employment was "essential".

When licensed childcare opened for the 2020/2021 school year, we organized our groups to mirror the Vancouver School Board's COVID cohorts to limit the exposure risk to families. We also followed the Public Health Office guidance and reduced the risk of staff to staff transmission by splitting the program into two teams and holding separate meetings.

As part of our safety plan, we had a deck built for our outdoor pick up and stationed one of the Childcare Worker 3 staff at the table. We purchased walkie radios and used them to communicate between staff teams. Parents were encouraged to text prior to arrival, children washed/sanitized their hands and were brought to the sign out table to meet their parents.



# CHILDCARE REPORT, CONTINUED

This procedure eliminated as much risk as possible of parent to staff or parent to parent transmission. The added benefit was that the groups could go to a wider variety of spaces on the grounds without worrying about confusing the parents at pick up time.

The official waitlist count is currently 177 children. The Board's Childcare Committee previously had confirmed the policy of taking children in order from the waitlist, after accepting siblings and SCCA preschool children. During this reporting period the childcare committee agreed to amend the practice and include a consideration of the cohorts. We looked at which cohorts had space and then made offers to children in order of the waitlist. The unexpected result of this was that many families who were late to enroll in the waitlist due to barriers were not competing for spaces with more privileged families.

## Preschool Program

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our Preschool Program was late to re-open. Parents' hesitancy to enroll children in preschool was experienced all over the City of Vancouver. Fortunately, this extra month gave the staff time to hone their safety skills and we reopened with full confidence in October. I would like to thank the Board for supporting us through this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica (Roni) Light  
SCCA Childcare Manager



# COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

The year 2020 started out very strong at Strathcona. There were times when we were the busiest community centre based drop-in program in the city. Our place-based strategy was working and included nearby Ray-Cam, UNYA, Pathways to Education, The Drive Employment Centre, and many more. We were working toward new leadership development and increased wrap-around services.



In March 2020, efforts quickly shifted to phone and online support and community-based outreach before the full shut-down in early May. After a full closure, I returned with a small approved outdoor program at MacLean Park. The impact of the pandemic on the development of youth in Strathcona has been disproportionately high. It highlighted the inequities in our communities that we, as youth workers, always knew were there before. Access to the community centre became a lifeline to children and youth when we reopened. This included near unprecedented participation from youth in the BIPOC community.

# COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT, CONTINUED

It became an art balancing inclusion for these youth that needed us with our limited capacity under new safety procedures. My main focus since Fall 2020 has been on our largely scaled back budget and prudent fiscal responsibility given these limits on our capacity. Youth adjusted and adapted because they understood the importance and did not want to jeopardize their access to the programmed spaces. What will be needed in 2022 is an all-out effort, and budget commitment to return our youth participation and service levels to, at the very least, pre-pandemic levels with a strong trauma-informed and harm-reduction approach.

Youth responded well to our reopening and re-established the crucial relationships with our staff that are the heart of our program. I would like to thank the board, my colleagues, my supervisor, and especially the youth staff (Rohani, Heja, Jannet, Maura, & Jacobi) for their daily efforts above and beyond the call of duty in a most incredible year of systemic and social upheaval.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabe Dennis  
Community Youth Worker

# REMEMBERING DAISY CHIN

Strathcona Community Centre honors Daisy Chin, Park Board Director of Recreation Services, who passed away in March 2021. Daisy worked at Strathcona Community Centre in the late 1990s- early 2000s as our Community Recreation Supervisor. Daisy was well loved by both staff and the community in Strathcona.

Former Recreation Programmer Ron Suzuki, worked with Daisy for many years at Strathcona Community Centre and remembers her very fondly.



Daisy always made coming to work fun. She was always positive, ever so patient, and never hesitated to guide and support her people. Daisy's hard work and ability to connect and engage with everyone ensured her success as a Recreation Manager. - Ron Suzuki

Our condolences go out to Darcy Henkel, Daisy's partner of 22 years, the Chin family, and her friends and colleagues. She will be truly missed and warmly remembered. Daisy's full obituary is available [here](#).

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

A Better Life Foundation  
Adam's Apple  
Admiral Seymour Elementary School  
Adult Association for Learning Disabilities  
Arts Umbrella  
BC Centre for Ability  
BC Gaming | Direct Access  
BC Government Child Care Operating Fund  
BC Government - family subsidies  
BC Housing  
BCIT Nursing Program  
BC Recreation and Parks Association  
Benny's Market  
Better Homes for Everyone Foundation  
Bosa Foundation  
Breakfast Club of Canada / Walmart  
Britannia Community Services Centre  
Burnt At Both Ends  
Cadeaux Bakery  
Canada Summer Grant  
Canadian Living Magazine  
Canadian Tire - Jump Start  
Capilano University / Ministry of Advanced  
Education  
Central City Foundation  
CIBC Wood Gundy  
City of Vancouver  
City of Vancouver - Childcare  
City of Vancouver - Food security staff - Social  
Planning  
CKNW Orphans Fund  
CLICK Foundation  
Concord Pacific  
Continental Importers  
Cook for Cause  
DP World  
The Dirty Apron  
Discovery Organics  
Duso's  
Environmental Youth Alliance  
European Football School  
Face the World Foundation  
Fresh Direct Produce  
G&F Financial  
Global TV - BC  
The Gourmet Warehouse  
Greater Vancouver Food Bank  
Hamber Foundation

H&M  
HRSDC - Fed Govt - Canada Summer Grant  
HRSDC - Fed Govt  
Hearts of Gold Foundation  
Jerome Outreach Society  
Jenn Worth Insurance via Scotia Bank  
KIA Canada  
Kids Upfront  
Langara Falcons Womens & Mens Basketball  
Team  
LMBG Media Group  
Lochmaddy Foundation  
Lord Strathcona Elementary School  
Lotus Light Charity Society  
Lucy Woodsworth Foundation  
McCleery Golf Course  
Maria Mimie Ho Foundation  
Matchstick Coffee Roaster  
MCFD - Ministry of Child & Family  
Metro Theatre & Vancouver Sun  
NBA Canada (and Toronto Raptors)  
New Horizons  
Nighthoops  
No Frills  
Nobody's Perfect  
North American Soccer Store  
Not So Fast Food For All  
Secret Lantern Society  
Seycove Secondary School  
Shangri-La Hotel  
Strathcona Health Society  
Strathcona Residents Association  
Sunrise Soya Foods  
Opus Art Supplies  
Pacific Coast Resource Society  
Pathways Canada  
Park Place Foundation  
Peterson Group  
Phnom Penh Restaurant  
Port Metro Vancouver  
PossAbilities  
Potluck Cafe  
Powerex Corporation  
Premium Brands Holding Corporation  
Private & Anonymous Donors  
Project Limelight Society  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
Public Health Agency of Canada - CAP-C -  
Community Action Program for Children

Push Operations  
Salvation Army  
SBIA Strathcona Business Improvement  
Association  
Science World - TELUS World of Science  
Seattle Asian Sports Club  
Seedlings Foundation  
SFU Summer Reading Program &  
Budding Scientists Program  
SFU Womens Basketball Program  
SUCCESS  
St. George's School  
St. Regis Hotel / Roncoroni Hospitality  
Consulting  
Sunrise Market  
Ray Cam Co-operative Centre  
RBL - Real Basketball League  
Red Fox Healthy Active Living Society  
Rock Basketball  
Rotary Club of Vancouver Sunrise  
UBC - Centre for Community Engaged  
Learning  
UBC - Learning Exchange  
UBC - Thunderbird - Men & Women's  
Basketball  
Union Gospel Mission  
Union Market  
Vancouver Board of Parks and  
Recreation  
Vancouver Chinatown Merchants  
Association  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
Vancouver Foundation Neighbourhood  
Small Grants  
Vancouver Fruit Tree Project Society  
Vancouver Moving Theatre  
Vancouver Police Department  
Vancouver Police Athletic League  
Vancouver Public Library  
Vancouver School Board  
Vancouver Sun Children's Fund Society  
Vancouver Whitecaps  
Vans  
Variety - The Children's Charity  
Village Vancouver  
The Wilder Snail  
Windermere High School  
Zhu Chi Foundation