



# Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre: Burnside Gorge Community Centre**

**Address: 471 Cecelia Road**

**Operating Association/Society: Burnside Gorge Community Association**

**Society Registration Number: S-0027918**

**Submitted by: Suzanne Cole**

1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

The supplemental funding was used both to continue providing recreation programming for children, youth families and seniors in the city of Victoria as well as to support community development initiatives for the neighborhood. In addition, long overdue wage increases were implemented for the staff in these departments.

2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

Community members benefitted from both continued and new programming provided for folks across the lifespan at the Centre. Programs include: Zumba, Yoga, Cake Decorating, Strength and Conditioning for older adults, Tennis for Kids, and more. Community development in the Burnside Gorge community is crucial due to the many contentious issues impacting residents. Increasing efforts to engage residents around both community issues as well as successes is a priority.

Community members came out to a brand new initiative this year. The Cecelia Ravine Backyard Party was held in Cecelia Ravine Park following our Gorge Waterway Cleanup event. The Backyard Party was attended by many residents including families. Many comments were made about how wonderful it felt to be connecting with others in the beautiful Cecelia Ravine Park and how nice it was to see the space active and bustling.

3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

A parent attending the backyard party provided feedback that "this was a great event and is the perfect place to bring community members together. If you do it again I would be happy to hand out flyers and spread the word so more families can come and meet at this great space and enjoy the food, drinks, music and company."



# Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre: Cook Street Village Activity Centre**

**Address: 1-380 Cook St**

**Operating Association/Society: Cook Street Village Activity Centre Society (New Horizons)**

**Society Registration Number: 13946**

**Submitted by: Carol Turnbull**

## 1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

We have used the additional funding to hire a much needed staff member to support our nearly 200 volunteers. This person is now able to take some of the workload from our staff that have been doing more than a full time position. Our new staff member supports our volunteers through recruitment, scheduling, training, and evaluation. Currently this is a part time position, however, we hope to make this a full time position in the next two years.

## 2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

By supporting our volunteers well, we are able to better support our members and the general public who call, stop by, and participate in the wide array of activities, events, and programming options. This new staff member has taken over some tasks from other positions leaving them time to complete other tasks.

It has taken time for us to hire this new staff member. Throughout the summer CSVAC board executive members reviewed the policy manual and created the new position of Reception Assistant. Due to holidays and no board meeting in August the approval was not given until the September board meeting. The job was then posted and our Reception Assistant was recently hired.

3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

There has been a sigh of relief from many our reception volunteers when we announced that we would be hiring a new staff member to help them run the front desk more efficiently and assist everyone to access programming quicker.

Shirley, one of our reception volunteers said, "She is a lovely lady. I think she is going to do great" when asked what she thought of our newest member of staff.

Joni, receptionist and board member, said that she is looking forward to working with our new staff member on a training manual and general smoother operations for reception.



# Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre: Downtown Community Centre**

**Address: 755 Pandora Avenue**

**Operating Association/Society: Victoria Cool Aid Society**

**Society Registration Number: 12820 5069 RR001**

**Submitted by: Lori Ferguson, Manager of Support Services**

1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

The supplemental funding received by the Downtown Community Centre has been used (and will continue to be used for the remainder of the fiscal year) to:

- (1) Further expand food security and literacy programming and services including Community Kitchen Program, community meals, food pantry, etc.
- (2) Expand arts programming and availability of art materials, mediums and teaching;
- (3) Replace and/or repair worn recreational equipment and other programming materials, including floor hockey equipment, Kindergym equipment, etc.

2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

The community has benefitted from this investment in numerous ways, including:

- (1) The expanded food security and literacy programs at the Downtown Community Centre have provided vital nutritional opportunities, improved health and cooking/life skills to people facing poverty, homelessness, chronic and serious health challenges and more. Access to food and improved food literacy has both positive immediate and long-term effects on the overall health and wellbeing of our client population.
- (2) The expanded arts programming and increased availability of art materials, mediums and teaching has provided improved skill development, social connections and decreased isolation, as well as entrepreneurial opportunities, for many of our most marginalized and vulnerable citizens. Numerous participants in the arts programs at the Downtown Community Centre have had the opportunity to showcase and sell their arts at various community markets, art show and galleries as well as an upcoming seasonal craft fair. These opportunities to participate in positive and mainstream public events and to earn money to supplement the very limited incomes of our client population have a profound effect on quality of life and sense of belonging in our community.
- (3) Replacement and repair of recreational and rental equipment allows the Downtown Community Centre to continue to offer safe and desirable access to recreational opportunities for our client population, other non-profit organizations, sports groups and leagues, community organizations, day care providers and more. The opportunity for these individuals and groups to participate in healthy activity, social gatherings and community events not only improves the health and wellbeing of individuals but supports the creation of a positive and vibrant downtown Victoria.

3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

“The programs at the Downtown Community Centre give me a place to feel safe, to feel like I belong to a community and to better my physical and mental health. I have a very hard time planning meals and cooking on my own and the Community Kitchen program helps me learn to cook and eat on a very limited budget. I have also made friends from the programs at the Downtown Community Centre and spend a lot less time alone in my apartment. I enjoy having conversation with other participants and getting to share food together.” – 47 year old female participant.



“I participate in many of the programs at the Downtown Community Centre but I am most excited about the growing arts programs that are offered. I have been able to get in touch with my previous passion and skill for art which has been really important for my recovery. I have had the opportunity to sell my art at the Moss Street market, the Bastion Square market and am looking forward to participating again in the Downtown Community Craft Fair. Not only have I been able to earn a bit of a living from these opportunities but I have made connections with many people in the art community and no longer feel that people see me only as a former drug user or street person but that people see me at a meaningful contributor to our community and society.” – 34 year old male participant.





# Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre: Fairfield Community Place**

**Address: 1330 Fairfield Rd.**

**Operating Association/Society: Fairfield Gonzales Community Association**

**Society Registration Number: S-0011840**

**Submitted by: Vanya McDonell, Co-Executive Director**

**1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.**

The FGCA used the additional funding to increase our capacity in general service delivery and in community development. Specifically, we added evening reception hours from Monday to Thursday (previously the centre front desk closed at 4:00pm on those days). We also increased hours for our Community Development Coordinator, who plans and implements events as well as facilitates community development initiatives such as our Book Club, Reconciliation Circle, Repair Café, Art at the Place, and Streetlife Committee.

## 2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

### Community benefits included:

- Increased access to resources and a safe space during the evening and after work hours
- Increased opportunity for users to connect with the centre, register and make payments, and attend activities in the evening
- FGCA now has the ability to offer some drop-in recreation programming, previously not possible because of not having front desk staff in the evenings
- Increased ability for the FGCA to facilitate community action on issues of relevance, such as environmental sustainability, reconciliation with indigenous peoples, and social connectedness
- Increased employment opportunities for these staff members
- Increased capacity for event planning leading to enhanced community events (Fall Fairfield, Neighbourhood-Wide Yard Sale)

## 3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

- New Climate Action group, facilitated by Community Development Coordinator
- New Community Asset Mapping project launched, facilitated by Community Development Coordinator
- Increased scope of Fall Fairfield event to include vendor's village showcasing local vendors and non-profits
- Between 20 and 100 community members accessing the centre each evening during new evening hours
- Ability to continue monthly community dinners without specific funding this year (Serve 500 people per year)

This type of enhancement will take some time to show its full effects as capacity is built within these programs and as the community becomes more aware of the opportunities available. This investment contributes to the overall vibrancy of the centre, especially to those elements that are not otherwise funded: community centre access and community development initiatives.





# Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre: Fernwood Community Centre**

**Address: 1240 Gladstone Ave**

**Operating Association/Society: Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group Society**

**Society Registration Number: 107380982 RR00001**

**Submitted by: Shonna Bell**

## 1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

The Operating Funding is an integral part of the operations of our community center. With the supplemental funding Fernwood NRG increased the hours that our front desk is staffed; including in the evenings and on most weekends Our Gymnasium is booked from 7am-10pm Monday-Friday with activities from Out-of-School Care to seniors, to sports teams and our long standing renters Nuu Chah Nulth Cultural Group. We would not be able to extend this extensive offering without the support of front desk staff.

The front desk staff support all of the programs in numerous ways including:

- managing the rental contracts,
- ensuring the rooms are booked,
- directing people to the program they are looking for,
- providing information to the public about the programs that our happening,
- taking donations and fees for our low cost meal programs, and
- being the first point of contact for almost everything.

One of our front desk staff also facilitates our seniors' programs. With the increase in her hours (and an amount from the My Great Neighbourhood grant) she has been able to add an entirely new offering for seniors and double the number of people attending our longstanding senior's lunch program. Both programs now take place in the gymnasium to accommodate the number of seniors attending.

## 2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

The community benefitted from this investment by being able to access services at the Fernwood Community Centre for longer hours during each week. This does not only include rentals, but also access to computers, washrooms, Good Food Box pick-ups, free bread (weekly), kid's clothing, and a support worker if needed.

For those who have evening rentals (primarily support groups), having a centre staff means less responsibility for those groups as they often struggle to have someone available to open their meetings.

The more programming that we are able to offer the more connections that we are able to make. By having increased programming hours that means staff and facilitators have more time to connect on an individual basis with attendees. One example of this is learning that one of our seniors who had been attending program was living in her vehicle; we were able to further support this person.

## 3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

As I sit here writing this every room in our centre is full. There is a support group happening for mother's, attended by medical professionals, the senior's programmer is preparing the gym for the senior's yoga, the front desk person is answering calls and the seniors are in the lobby 30 min early for their much anticipated program. Being able to access a second program during the week here at the centre has really got them excited.

With each increased investment that is made in the centre we are able to increase our offerings, connection and support to the diverse community we serve.



# Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre: James Bay Community Centre**

**Address: 140 Oswego St.**

**Operating Association/Society: James Bay Community School Centre Society**

**Society Registration Number: 13140**

**Submitted by: Tracey Gibson – Community School Coordinator**

## 1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

We have used the additional funding for two areas:

### **Wage Increase Recreation Programmer**

The recreation coordinator position received an increase in funding. This position is directly responsible for the delivery of recreation and leisure services to residents of the City. Maintaining a recreation coordinator has been a challenge over the years, and we are hoping that this wage increase helps to maintain coordinators for a longer period of time.

A greater wage will help in retaining a recreation coordinator for a longer period of time which stabilizes our recreation program delivery.

### **Volunteer Coordinator Position**

In 2017 the total estimated in kind value of volunteerism with the JCSS was calculated at \$58,000, in 2018 \$56,000.

This lift in funding has given us the opportunity to hire a Volunteer Coordinator who will be able to create a thriving volunteer program which will enhance many levels of our recreation delivery. This person is now able to take volunteer management off of others workloads. The Volunteer Coordinator will support volunteers through recruitment, scheduling, training and evaluation. The creation of this position is very exciting for all members of staff.

## 2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

### **Increase in Wage – Recreation Programmer**

The community is going to have consistency in the delivery of Recreation Programs and this is going to mean that long lasting relationships are developed between the coordinator and the patrons of JBCSC. Which will result in more of the community using our services.

Our board did not meet over the summer and the motion was moved in September to apply this increase with a back pay to Jan of 2019.

### **Volunteer Coordinator Position**

Although our organization uses volunteers on a regular basis there is no overall management of our volunteer program, therefore we have not seen growth in our volunteer engagement and programs have not been able to expand without the help of volunteers.

This position is going to be a way to engage more members of the community and with an increase of volunteers, we can enhance the delivery of our programs. Volunteering is also a great way for people to give back, connect with others, and feel connected to the community. With JBCSC having more volunteer opportunities available, we really see this as a win win for the entire community.

It has taken awhile to hire this new staff member. During the summer the JBCSC board does not meet and the motion was moved in September to be able to create a new position. Also JBCSC had a new Community School Coordinator start at the beginning of September.

## 3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

### **Increased Wage for Recreation Programmer**

Our recreation programmer is very happy with this increase.

Logan who is our Recreation Programmer says that this increase in pay really does make a difference and also makes her feel valued for the work that she does.

### **Volunteer Coordinator Position**

This position has just been awarded to an internal candidate who has tried to manage volunteers from the corner of her desk.

Suzie says she is really excited to have dedicated time to create a volunteer program where we create a positive experience for volunteers. She says that one of the things that helped her in the decision to take this job was that there would be a positive impact to programming and that we would be able to offer more programs for the community.



## Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre:** James Bay New Horizons

**Address:** 234 Menzies St, Victoria, BC V8V 2G7

**Operating Association/Society:** James Bay New Horizons Society

**Society Registration Number:** 11147

**Registered Charitable Tax Number (if applicable):** 11897-2724 RR0001

1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

Since having received the funding in July, we have been able to use these funds by giving our supportive staff significant raises. We are pleased to say that all our staff now earn the suggested Living Wage for Victoria.

We have also initiated a new intergenerational program called STEP. The Sharing Teen & Elder Project (STEP) is a multi-generational program where teens and elders gather to bridge the generation through conversation. We gather to talk, to listen, and to be heard—striving to increase the mental well-being of all participants, to help decrease social isolation, and to create a safe space where people talk and find their similarities while sharing their experiences.

STEP promotes ideas that give rise to happiness, belonging, security, wisdom and realization that disparate age groups can have genuine fun together. At our initial meeting we had 45 students and 8 seniors participate. We were overwhelmed by the number of teens (aged 15 – 25 years) that wanted to be part of this program.

As stated, we just received funding in July, so we have only had time to have introductory meetings with the youth and seniors and one initial combined meeting. This group will also be looking at doing some outings and combined programs for fun, socialization and the opportunity to learn from each other over the next 6 months.

2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

These extra funds have allowed us to make significant increase to the wages we now pay the staff. One of our staff members is a single parent and this increase has allowed her the opportunity to enroll her children in extra curricular programs which she could not afford to do before.

By giving us this bump in our funding, some of the funds are being used for staff wages, which means we do not have to raise funds to offset wages. As many of our members are seniors living on fixed incomes this is a relief. We are able to keep our program and activity fees at reasonable costs so it is not a burden to the very people who need this Centre the most!

The STEP program is able to reach across the generations and allows the seniors and teens the opportunity to get to know each other. One of the interesting comments from one of the young participants was how similar their interests were and how interesting the seniors were. I feel that this is going to be a very successful program and look forward to seeing how it grows.

3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

Reflections and Celebrations Summary of STEP Launch

Youth reflections

- The elders were very outgoing AND NICE. They love to share their story. I learned how to share my story.
- I learned that elders are normal people that want to make meaningful connections with others and to be treated like normal people.
- I learned you can form a bond in a short time. I am left with a positive outlook.
- Everyone goes through hardships and it's important to keep moving forward

Elder Reflections

- I feel much more settled and realize that I have a lot in common with young people. I was frightened when I first came in. I am glad I did!
- The teens are just as interested in what we think about different subjects as we are in their interests.
- I am not too old to relate to the modern youth. I had fun!
- It's fun and easy to talk to "younger people". I want to get to know them more. I feel great!

This is just a sampling of the comments after our first session.



# Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre: Oaklands**

**Address: 1-2827 Belmont**

**Operating Association/Society: Oaklands Community Association**

**Society Registration Number: 882929946RR00**

**Submitted by: Chris Holt, Executive Director**

**1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.**

We used the funds for wages specifically in order to maintain openness to the public by having administrative, reception resources available. The annual funding now provides one FTE for the centre.

**2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?**

Community benefits by having a resource dedicated to helping them with community services here at Oaklands and elsewhere on a referral basis. Our reception services are open during business hours and provide that direct caring human contact with seniors, children, those with disabilities and the general public. This is appreciated by the neighbourhood and is a more professional approach than having a phone tree or lack of reception.

**3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.**

I do not have a direct impact statement via these methods as the funds enabled us to maintain consistent reception services without struggling to find the resources necessary. While the lift is appreciated it is far from adequate to fully optimize our centre; but the additional funds have kept us responsive to community and will continue to enable us to maintain a consistent reception service and orientation services for our community.

# **Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report**

**Centre: Quadra Village Community Centre (QVCC)**

**Address: 901 Kings Rd, Victoria, BC**

**Operating Association/Society: Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee**

**Society Registration Number: S-0010895**

**Submitted by: Kelly Greenwell**

1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

The \$21,303 supplemental funding was allocated for use in supporting 3 areas:

- Building Attendant
- Indigenous Knowledge Keeper and Cultural Activities Facilitation
- Seniors Entitlement Service Coordinator

2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

The benefits of this investment are as follows:

- Building Attendant

-The more hours were able to provide for this part time position, the more hours we are able to keep Quadra Village Community Centre and Neighbourhood Gym open for groups and one time events and groups that take place outside our core Community Centre hours where we have reception and multiple staff in the building. Events and activities include cultural gatherings, workshops, sports/fitness activities and mutual support.

- Indigenous Knowledge Keeper and Cultural Activities Facilitation

-While our search for an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper has taken longer than anticipated the role will help strengthen the connection to the many urban Indigenous people who are part of our community and provide needed support and cultural connection to those who would benefit. Examples of cultural activities that have been able to happen at our Centre include Indigenous form line and painting, drum making, drumming and sharing of Indigenous spiritual practices. All of this links up with our Honouring Indigenous Relations Committee and its guidance around Indigenizing our Centre.

- Seniors' Entitlement Service Coordinator

-With the dissolution of Greater Victoria Seniors, Quadra Village Community Centre officially adopted the Seniors' Entitlement Service program as our own. This team of volunteer advocates has provided much needed one to one advocacy, system navigation and support at Quadra Village Community Centre for the last two decades. Coordination of this program has been unfunded until this year and had put the program at risk. Through the supplemental funding and a small grant we were able to keep the program open 3 days a week and project that we will have had over 600 support connections in 2019.



3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

Seniors' Entitlement Service engages in over 600 service requests per year relating to the following services to seniors 55 and up:

- Guidance and Information
- Collaborative Strategies
- Problem Solving
- System navigation (healthcare, housing, financial and legal matters)
- Support to address elder abuse and unexpected hardships.

By using the supplemental funding to fund an 8 hour a week position we were able to ensure at this program could continue to provide needed services through its roster of volunteer advocates, who provide service 3 days a week. These volunteers are primarily retired professionals from fields such as social work and other aspects of public service. Before this funding became available we were on the verge of closing this program after the retirement of a long time volunteer Seniors' Entitlement Coordinator.



## Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre: Silver Threads Service**

**Address: 2340 Richmond Road**

**Operating Association/Society: S-00052**

**Society Registration Number: #107981037RR0001**

**Submitted by: Tracy Ryan, Executive Director**

1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

The City of Victoria and Silver Threads Service have been partners in the delivery of programs and services for seniors in the community dating back to 1956. Silver Threads Service operated in the purpose built building in Centennial Square until the City decision to sell the property for the CRD and Silver Threads was moved into temporary space leased by the City on Douglas Street.

In 2014 Silver Threads Service was able to lease space near Royal Jubilee Hospital. When City of Victoria staff approached us in 2017 and invited us to be a part of the Crystal Pool Redevelopment we were very pleased as moving in to a City owned facility was our hope. Securing a letter of intent from the City was a positive development. However, now with the delays in the redevelopment and the uncertainty of the project it effectively eliminates this as an option at least for the foreseeable future, and puts Silver Threads Service in a precarious position.

Our lease at 2340 Richmond Road is now expired and we are paying on a month to month basis.

We receive an annual lease grant of \$122,000 from the City which we are grateful for.

At our current monthly rate our annual lease cost will be \$183,528 which leaves us facing a shortfall of \$61,528 this next year.

**This includes our payment of property tax to the City of Victoria of \$23,029.** The shortfall is covered through operations but is not sustainable.

The supplemental funding provides \$75,000 that is directed to cover the costs of 2 staff positions that manage the facility and programs and services. The increase of \$21,000 brings us closer to providing a living wage for these full time positions.

2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

We have addressed transportation issues for low income seniors living in subsidized housing by starting new programs offered weekly and monthly at Kiwanis Housing. The offerings now include chair exercise, Crafts & Connections, Bus Trips, Health talks, Foot Care and Food Share. 97 of the 137 current residents have engaged in some capacity since July 2019.

With a strong and positive partnership with James Bay New Horizons and the development of the Outreach Program we began in 2015, we are providing support to seniors that our traditional centres have not been able to provide and are connecting with those who are isolated. We have been able to build a new area of external, community based support that includes information and referral, connections to financial resources, addresses transportation and offers one on one guidance to help seniors age in place. We have worked with the third City funded senior centre, Cook Street Village Activity Centre to ensure we are working collaboratively. 800 seniors have attended info sessions and had one on one follow up since 2015.

3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

As outlined in this report we are at a critical time in our organization and over the past year we have continued to looking intently at our facility needs, explore service delivery models and partnership opportunities with our goal to provide meaningful, relevant support to older adults in our community. We look forward to continue to collaborate with the City of Victoria Senior Centres, and participate on the Seniors Task Force.

Older adults 65 years and older currently make up 18% of the population. This is expected to grow to 24% by 2031\*. It is important that the City of Victoria plan for this increase to support an aging population. Silver Threads Service would like to be part of the solution and increase the chances that Victoria residents have what they need for all the stages of aging in our City.

\*statistics provided by the Office of the BC Seniors Advocate





# Community and Seniors Centre 2019 Supplemental Funding Report

**Centre:** Victoria West Community Centre

**Address:** 521 Craigflower Road Victoria BC V9A 6Z5

**Operating Association/Society:** Victoria West Community Association

**Society Registration Number:** S0008974

**Submitted by:** Johanne Thompson, Executive Director

## 1. Please describe how your centre used the supplemental funding in 2019.

With the additional funding the VWCA expanded community engagement and events in the neighbourhood.

The funding was used to increase the total hours of our Volunteer Coordinator (from 8 hours/week to 20 hours/week) and Recreation & Rentals Coordinator (from 25 hours/week to 37.5 hours/week) for the period of April 2019-April 2020.

The purpose of this combined increase will be to support the creation of recurring Community events, and to provide support for existing VWCA events in the community and at the Centre at 521 Craigflower Road.

For the past few years, VWCA community events such as the Corn Roast, Easter Bunny Bonanza, and Potluck dinners have been cancelled due to lack of volunteer and staff support. The increase in hours from this grant money will provide staff support and the momentum that have been lacking in this area, as well as promote improved Board and volunteer retention.

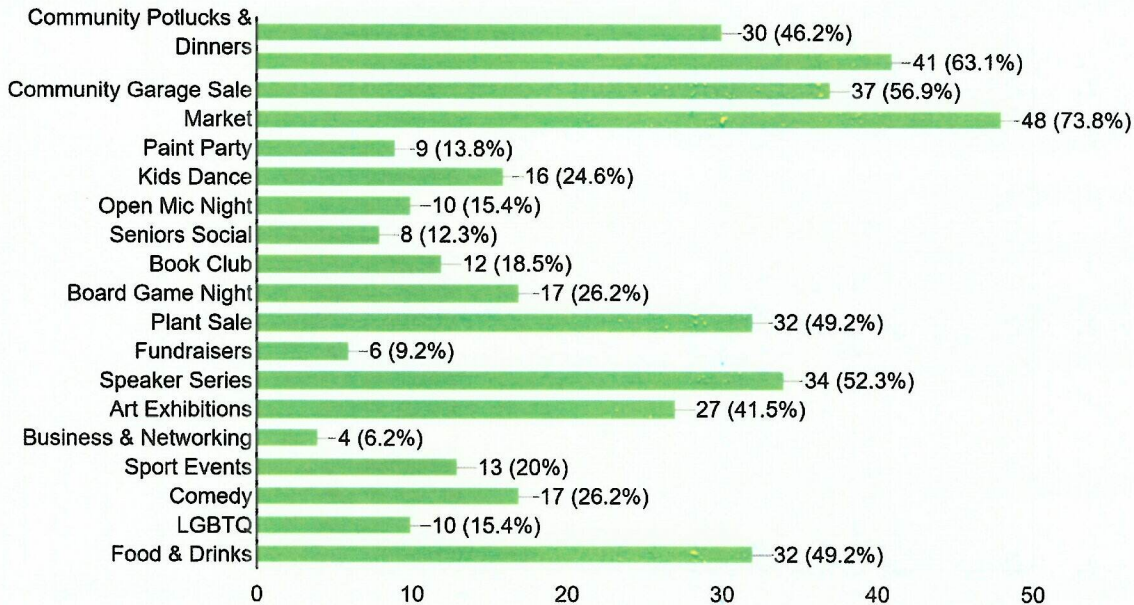
It also marries well with VWCA Strategic Goal #1: VWCA will be the hub and heart of the Vic West Community.

## 2. Please describe how the community benefitted from this investment?

This investment allowed VWCA staff to conduct a survey of our Membership online (May and June 2019) and in person at Vic West Fest in July, 2019 in order to gather information on the types of events and community building activities were lacking in the neighbourhood.

## What types of events would you like to see in Vic West?

65 responses



The top responses included: Market (73.8%), Community Dinners (63%), Community Garage Sale (56.9%), Speakers Series (52.3%).

Since conducting the survey, VWCA has started to implement additional community programs.

The following events happened in large part due to the increase in hours:

- a. Vic West Fest (July)
  - i. 500 attendees
  - ii. 20 vendors
- b. Community Garage Sale (August)
  - i. 150 attendees
  - ii. 20 people registered to sell items
- c. Speaker Series – Benefits of Outdoor Play (September)
  - i. 6 attendees

Another area of focus was the creation of neighbourhood projects through the City of Victoria's My Great Neighbourhood Grants

- d. In total, 4 grants were created with submission deadline being the middle of October. If approved, the work of the grants will continue in the fall of 2019 and into 2020.

### 2. Future events that are planned are as follows

- a. Halloween Fun Fest (October)
- b. Speaker Series (November)
- c. Community Potluck (November)
- d. Breakfast with Santa (December)
- e. Monthly Speaker Series (Ongoing)

As a result of the more frequent and additional events, we have seen an increase in community engagement. People are becoming more informed about community issues and really want to get involved.

Since June 2019 we have seen an increase in VWCA membership applications- we have had 23 new membership applications from May-October 2019 (we had 15 new applications total in all of 2018).

Our volunteer numbers have also expanded as a result of the increased engagement. We have on-boarded 25 new volunteers from May-October 2019. (Compared to 5 total in 2018)

The Victoria West Community Centre is becoming a hub where people come to learn and connect. In addition we have received verbal feedback from community members saying how much they have enjoyed the events and how they like the direction the association is going.

### 3. Please provide an impact statement(s) via testimonials, survey results or accomplishments directly related to this investment.

-We love to live here and be part of this great community.

-The VWCA Keeps me informed of community happenings even if I can't take part.

-I appreciate the work of the association in advocating with the City and creating the strategic plan for our area. In addition, the programs at the community centre are great assets to the neighbourhood.

-I appreciate having a group of people focused on ensuring the neighbourhood as a great place to live.

-I thank you for the opportunity to have been able to help at Vic West Fest. On Sunday 07, completed it was a month since we arrived in Victoria, we came from Brazil. And volunteer on Vic West Fest it was a great opportunity to practice my English and meet new people.

I would love to volunteer again at the Vic West Community Association. Be it at other events and activities like the Vic West Fest, or at the office, on the Association's day to day.

-Thank you so much for hosting Vic West Fest. We appreciate the opportunity to work with and support our neighbours. Very happy you had a sunny day! I brought my granddaughter to the Festival and we played on the playground in the sunshine. It was great fun and we met some lovely families.

