

ANNUAL REPORT



Rooted in Care, Growing in Community

24/
25



Our Vision

Everyone belongs in an equitable, diverse and caring community.

Our Mission

Weaving together diverse communities to create a just, equitable and caring society, where people experience a sense of belonging.



MARPOLE
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Marpole Neighbourhood House is located on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional homelands of the **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** (Musqueam), **Skwxwú7mesh** (Squamish), and **Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh** (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We acknowledge and honour **ćəsnaʔəm**, one of the ancient village sites of the Musqueam people, located in what is now known as Marpole. For over 4,000 years, generations of Musqueam ancestors lived at **ćəsnaʔəm**, a place of deep cultural, spiritual, and historical significance. The site, also known as the Marpole Midden, is one of the largest pre-contact middens on the Pacific coast of Canada and was designated a National Historic Site in 1933.

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A Message from our Executive Director & Board Chair



Dear Neighbours,

This year, we celebrate firsts and new beginnings—those tender, powerful moments when something fresh takes root and begins to grow. At Marpole Neighbourhood House, these beginnings have been abundant, each one a reflection of our community's resilience, creativity, and care.

One of our most joyful milestones has been the opening of our beautiful 79-space daycare at David Lloyd George Elementary. Now a year into operation, this vibrant space has become a nurturing home for children and families, a place where laughter echoes and learning flourishes. It stands as a testament to our commitment to creating environments **rooted in care, inclusion, and community.**



Our reframing project has blossomed, engaging new partners and welcoming community members into meaningful dialogue and collaboration. With each conversation and connection, we are reimagining what it means to belong, to lead, and to grow together.

This year also marked the beginning of a new chapter with our Community Advisory Board. With open hearts and curious minds, our board has embraced new ways of meeting and engaging—bringing creativity, compassion, and courage to the table. Our staff, too, have deepened their practice of circle, weaving this powerful approach into the fabric of our work and relationships.

As we continue this journey of transformation, we hold deep gratitude for the sacred land of *čəsnaʔəm*, on which we do this important work. **We acknowledge the unceded, ancestral homelands of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and recognize our responsibility to learn from and honour Indigenous ways of being.** Together, as a staff team and board, we are committed to decolonizing our practices and deepening our understanding through ongoing learning, reflection, and relationship-building.



A Message from our Executive Director & Board Chair

This commitment is reflected in our active participation in collaborative spaces such as the Joint Vancouver City Childcare Council, the South Vancouver Indigenous Council, and our continued partnerships with South Vancouver Neighbourhood House and our Marpole Community Partners. These relationships guide and inspire us as we strive to build a more inclusive, just, and culturally grounded community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our mural project, a vibrant expression of community spirit and storytelling. We are also preparing to raise the profile of Marpole Neighbourhood House so that more neighbours can discover and benefit from the incredible programs and connections we offer.

Our newly revitalized volunteer program is already bringing fresh energy and involvement, and we are thrilled to introduce a new initiative: Circle of Cultures Dinner Night. This program will bring neighbours together to share meals, stories, and cultural traditions—strengthening our sense of belonging and celebrating the rich diversity of our community.

To all who have walked with us—our partners, volunteers, staff, board members, and participants—thank you. Your presence, your passion, and your belief in what we do continue to shape our path forward. With each new beginning, we are reminded of the power of community, the beauty of connection, and the promise of what's yet to come. With gratitude and love for all our relations,



Nilda Borrino

Executive
Director



Luke Guilbault

Community Advisory
Board Chair



16

COMMUNITY
LUNCHES SERVED

85

EMERGENCY
WARMING
SHELTER DAYS



YOUTH
PARTICIPANTS

52

220

FAMILIES
SERVED



16

PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY
EVENTS

11

58

COMMUNITY
WORKSHOPS

Childcare



The Flow of Our Journey: A River of Relationships and Learning

As we reflect on the past 18 months, we see our program as a living river—flowing gently, guided by purpose, rooted in relationship. Like water, we move with the children, families, and communities who shape our path. At the heart of this river are our Educators, who walk gently beside each child, creating space for learning that is grounded in connection, care, and reciprocity.

In many Indigenous teachings, water is life. It teaches us to listen, to move with care, and to understand that all things are connected. This is how we approach our work—with gratitude for the children, families, and land that hold us.

At the river's source are the **Infants**, just beginning their journey. They are new to the world, learning first through the relationships that surround them. In this sacred beginning, we focus on nurturing secure, responsive connections. We work alongside families to create a warm and collaborative environment—one where each child is seen, heard, and honored.



Childcare



As children grow into the **Toddler** Program, the river widens. Toddlers begin to explore not only their relationships but also their place in the wider world. Guided by the principle of all my relations, we encourage children to see themselves as part of a larger circle—connected to the people, land, animals, and spirits around them. With families and Educators, they learn through shared experiences, guided by love and respect.

The river flows onward to our **3–5 Year Old Programs**, where children begin to understand who they are. This is a time of self-discovery and growing independence. We honor their voices, follow their curiosities, and support their learning through observation, reflection, and storytelling. Here, we gently scaffold their learning, respecting the wisdom they carry within themselves and the knowledge they build together.

Finally, the river reaches our **School Age Program**, where children deepen their understanding of their roles within the community and the world. They begin to ask: What do I bring? How can I contribute? In this space, we explore themes of justice, equity, and collective responsibility. We support children in seeing themselves as capable changemakers—grounded in empathy, empowered by knowledge, and guided by the values of respect, humility, and belonging.

Our river flows forward—with intention, with care, and always in relationship.



Childcare



Our highlights this year reflect on our learning journeys, values and commitments.



Community

- Infants to School Age going to the grocery store to purchase shared snacks
- Gigi Blin giving the children coffee grounds for their gardens
- Library Visits by all
- Visits with Community helpers!
- Riding on the bus and learning about Public Transportation
- Weekly donation walks to the Marpole Free Pantry



Connections and Relationships

- Intergenerational Days with our Toddlers and Seniors Programs Beach Day
- Visit and Storytime with Squamish Nation Elder Sempulyan (Uncle Sep)
- Family BBQ's and Potlucks
- Hosting our first annual clothing drive



Land

- Creating a community garden
- Acknowledging and following the Honourable Harvest



“Our child has thrived under your care. We have noticed significant improvements in his social skills an interaction with other children. Additionally, the nurturing and supportive environment provided by all the teachers is amazing and we couldn’t me more pleased with the positive impact it had on our child’s growth and well-being. Thank you for all that you do!”

Part Day 3-5 Program Parent

Reframing Marpole



Reframing Marpole is a community-powered initiative responding to long-standing inequities in resource allocation. We bring together residents, all levels of government, and local organizations to address public transportation, healthcare access, rental protections, and food security. By weaving conversations, support, and skills-building together, we're creating a resilient social fabric that reflects the voices of our community.



Civic Engagement & Outreach

- Met with City Councillor Lucy Maloney, MLA Sunita Dhir, and MP Chak Au to showcase the Neighbourhood House model and discuss social and health benefits.
- Connected with local groups like the Marpole Business Improvement Association and Jewish Family Services (JFS) to expand outreach and partnerships.

Hosted outreach booths at:

- International Students Fair
- Marine Gateway Summer Art Market
- MLA Sunita Dhir's BC Day Celebration
- MNH's Annual Pride BBQ
- Marpole branch of Vancouver Public Library

"It feels like Marpole is the Gay Community Centre in the deep south of Vancouver in that MNH is a second home for me. They are very respectful to the gay community." - D

Reframing Marpole



Looking ahead, Reframing Marpole will continue to deepen relationships and expand civic engagement:



Relaunching
Neighbourhood
Gathering
Circles this fall.



Workshops on
applying for local
Neighbourhood
Small Grants.



Eco-Voyage workshop
teaching people how to
navigate easily using transit,
car/bike share, and walking.



Launching our new IG
@reframingmarpole to
share updates and invite
community participation.



“I get teary eyed when speaking of having this place where I feel loved, accepted and supported especially during and after my health issues” - G

Programs Highlights



Seniors Central

Each week, 10–15 seniors join out-trips, workshops, and group sessions that keep them active, engaged, and socially connected. Through the Better at Home Program they've enjoyed visits to places like Lonsdale Quay Market, UBC Botanical Garden, and Steveston Village, plus a community book club at Mount Pleasant Library. These opportunities go beyond recreation, reducing isolation, fostering friendships, and enriching health, resilience, and quality of life.

Gathering Gardeners

A dedicated group of neighbours, led by Dianne, tends our garden each week—planting, weeding, harvesting, and collecting seeds for the Seed Library. This year they secured a Neighbourhood Small Grant to install a drip irrigation system and hosted a workshop teaching others how it works. The gardeners also joined MNH events like the Community Yard Sale, Open House, and BBQ, raising funds and awareness for community gardening while strengthening sustainability and connection.



Crochet and Knitting Group

This bustling, vibrant group is facilitated by the talented and creative Claire, who generously gives her time and resources to teach participants how to crochet and knit. Together, members have crafted and donated numerous handmade items—such as scarves, sweaters, hats, gloves, and blankets—to help raise funds for Marpole Neighbourhood House. The group has attracted many new members, fostered creativity, and built connections.

Programs Highlights



Youth Action Group

This year, the youth group planned and led community initiatives like assembling care packages for the MNH warming shelter and fundraising for local charities. They also joined workshops on civic engagement, résumé preparation, job readiness, and wellness, and completed a first aid course. Through these experiences and volunteering with the School's Out program, youth strengthened their leadership and interpersonal skills while gaining meaningful work experience to support their future goals.

United Way Schools Out Program

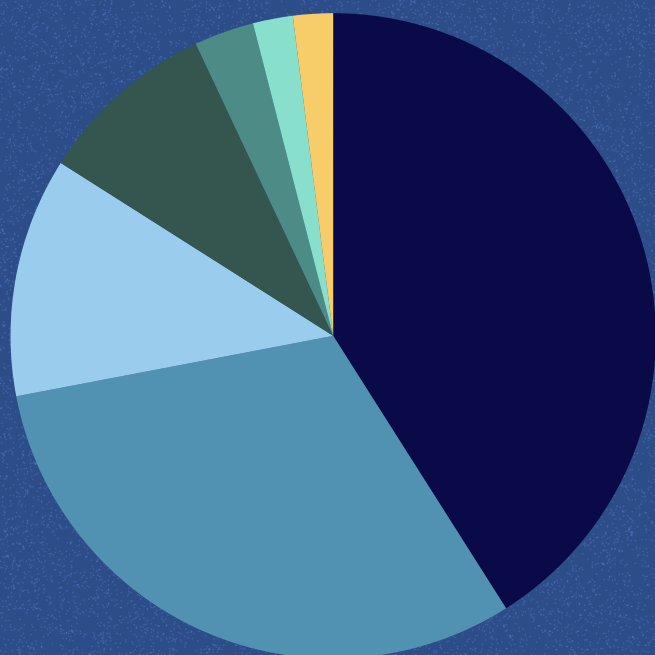
The United Way School's Out program engages children ages 5-12 in after-school activities that support learning, social development, and confidence. Participants explore their community, take part in creative projects, and build lasting friendships while discovering cultural activities that spark curiosity and dialogue. Youth staff guide and mentor participants, creating a safe, supportive space where young people can thrive and have fun.



Settlement Program

Our Settlement Services program helps newcomers, immigrants, and refugees navigate life in Marpole. We offer one-on-one support, referrals, and workshops on housing, employment, and community resources, fostering understanding and connection. This welcoming, culturally responsive approach helps individuals and families build networks, understand their rights, and gain confidence as they adapt to their new environment.

Financial Breakdown

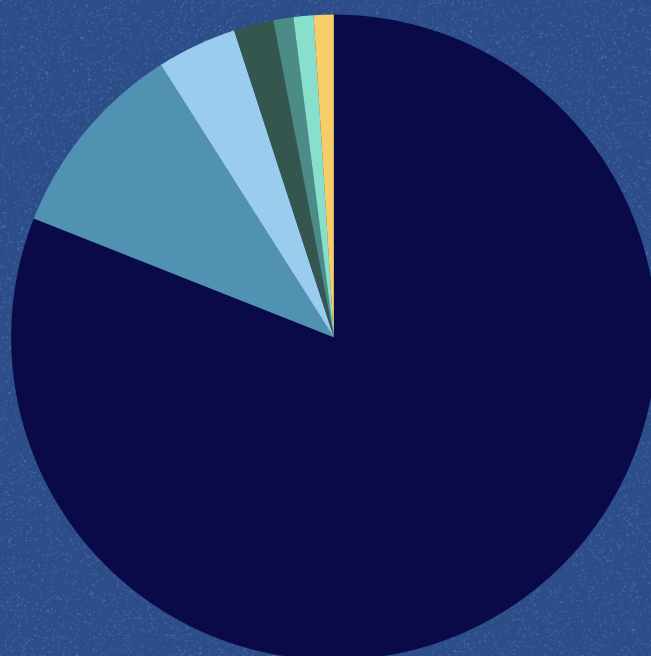


Revenue

- Province of BC
- User Fees (childcare)
- Other Grants
- City of Vancouver
- Federal Government
- Earned Income (Rentals)
- Donations and Fundraising

Expenses

- Salaries and Benefits
- Program, Food & Transportation
- Building Occupancy
- Purchased Services
- Office Expenses
- Capital Expenses
- Other Expenses



Our Board

Meet our MNH Community Board 2025-2026!



Erin Anderson

Erin joined the Marpole Neighbourhood House Board in November 2020 and has been Chair since 2021. She also serves on the ANHBC Board Governance and Development Committee. A Marpole resident for over 10 years, Erin is a strong advocate for community engagement and enjoys the vegetarian lunches on Fridays.



Luke Guilbault

Luke Guilbault, a healthcare professional with deep roots in the Tsimshian and Gixstan Nations, serves as the Relational Care Lead at Kilala Lelum, where he provides culturally informed care for Indigenous communities in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Since 2020, he has partnered with neighborhood houses to organize cultural workshops like canning and bannock making, fostering safe spaces for healing and empowerment.



Rachel Magarinos Torres

Rachel, a long-time Marpole resident, lives with her husband and teenage son and works at the library. She has supported the neighbourhood house through organizing events for Brazilian newcomers, hosting community celebrations, and creating a special video highlighting its impact.



Robin Miller

Robin, a non-binary community member, has been an active volunteer in Marpole, contributing to programs like the family meal initiative and leading events such as the Marpole Art Gallery and Transgender Day of Visibility. They co-founded a local Vancouver Tenants Union chapter and work to support housing for people with disabilities.



Sandra Suazo

With over 17 years of experience in social services, Sandra specializes in community engagement, program development, and leadership. She has created programs addressing financial literacy, mental health, settlement support, and senior care, fostering equity and inclusion in diverse sectors. Sandra is passionate about building partnerships that empower marginalized communities.



Phyllis Tang

Phyllis, a Vancouver native, has a background in ethnomusicology and nonprofit financial management. She has worked on numerous political campaigns, serves as a Constituency Assistant, and supports Marpole through music education, fundraising, and community outreach initiatives. Phyllis is passionate about leveraging her skills to address community needs and create positive local change.



Vijay Gupta

Vijay, MBA, has over 38 years of experience in accounting, finance, and audits, including roles as a Financial Consultant on World Bank projects. As Marpole's Treasurer, he represents the community on the ANHBC Board of Governors and Finance Committee, contributing his extensive expertise to strengthen local initiatives.



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Canadian Heritage
Patrimoine canadien



LITTLE MOUNTAIN
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
NEIGHBOUR HELPING NEIGHBOUR

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