



ANNUAL REPORT

Impact | Stories | Statistics

*The community
we create*

25/
26



A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, playing by a pond. The boy is in the foreground, wearing a blue jacket with a red cape and light blue pants, holding a stick. The girl is behind him, wearing a dark blue jacket with red and white stripes on the sleeves. They are both looking towards the pond. The background shows a calm body of water and some trees in the distance. The image is partially obscured by a large white graphic element on the left side of the page.

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 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 **čəsnaʔəm**, 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 **čəsnaʔəm**, 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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ANHBC Core Transformation and a Fond Farewell to our CEO Liz Lougheed Green

This year marked another important chapter in the Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC's Core Transformation journey. Across the neighbourhood house network, staff, leaders, residents, Elders, and community members continued the work of reimagining how we live our commitments to equity, reconciliation, shared leadership, and community voice. These conversations have challenged us to think differently about how decisions are made, whose voices are centered, and how we can create more inclusive and responsive organizations.

We would also like to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable leadership of Liz Lougheed Green as she prepares to transition from her role as CEO of ANHBC in July. Liz has been a thoughtful and courageous leader whose vision, compassion, and unwavering commitment to community have helped guide the neighbourhood house movement through a period of significant change and growth. Her leadership has inspired many across the network, and her contributions will have a lasting impact on our organizations and the communities we serve. We extend our sincere gratitude and wish her every success in the next chapter of her journey.



A Message from our Executive Director



Dear Neighbours,

Community does not simply happen. It is something we create together. It is created through relationships, through acts of care and belonging, through shared experiences, and through the courage to imagine something better. This year, The Community We Create became more than a theme. It became a reflection of how Marpole Neighbourhood House continues to evolve alongside the community we serve.

One of the most inspiring examples of this was our annual fundraising gala and community art show. Featuring the work of local artists and community members, the exhibit celebrated the creativity, diversity, and lived experiences that make Marpole such a vibrant place to call home. The response reminded us that art has a unique ability to bring people together, spark conversation, build understanding, and strengthen our sense of belonging. As we look to the future, we see creativity and artistic expression continuing to strengthen connection and community.

Throughout the year, we continued to ground our work in relationship-building and in our commitment to the lands on which we gather—the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. Our journey toward truth and reconciliation continues to challenge us to listen deeply, speak truthfully, and stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities. It asks us to examine systems that create inequity, to question colonial approaches that have shaped our institutions, and to embrace ways of working that prioritize relationships, reciprocity, inclusion, and collective well-being.

As a neighbourhood house, we recognize that many of the challenges facing our community cannot be solved by one organization alone. Increasingly, we see our role not only as a service provider but as a convener of community—a place where people, organizations, grassroots leaders, and partners come together to share ideas, build relationships, and work collaboratively toward common goals. We are excited to strengthen these networks and create more opportunities for collective action.

As a neighbourhood house, we recognize that many of the challenges facing our community cannot be solved by one organization alone. Increasingly, we see our role not only as a service provider but as a convener of community—a place where people, organizations, grassroots leaders, and partners come together to share ideas, build relationships, and work collaboratively toward common goals. We are excited to strengthen these networks and create more opportunities for collective action.

This spirit of collaboration is also reflected in our continued growth. We are particularly excited to be expanding our childcare services through the development of a new 45-space school-age childcare program at Trudeau Elementary School. This project represents far more than additional childcare spaces. It is an opportunity to support children, families, and the broader school community while strengthening connections between education, family support, and community development. We look forward to welcoming new families into the neighbourhood house community and creating opportunities for meaningful engagement both within and beyond the childcare program.

As we move forward, we remain committed to nurturing a community where everyone can contribute their gifts, where creativity and innovation are celebrated, where difficult conversations are met with courage and compassion, and where people feel connected to one another and the place they call home.

To our staff, volunteers, Board members, partners, funders, donors, and community members—thank you. Your commitment, generosity, and belief in the neighbourhood house movement continue to shape the community we create together.

The future of Marpole is not something that happens to us. It is something we build together—one relationship, one conversation, one act of care at a time.

And that future has never felt more hopeful.
Yours in community,

Nilda Borrino
Executive Director



A Message from our Community Board Chair



Dear Neighbours,

Over the past year, it has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Marpole Neighbourhood House Community Advisory Board. This work continues to be grounded in relationship with community members, staff, partners, and the lands on which we gather. I am continually reminded that Neighbourhood Houses are not simply service providers, but living spaces of connection, care, and shared responsibility.

Throughout the year, I have had the opportunity to witness growth and leadership throughout our community advisory board, engage in meaningful dialogue, and support collaborative decision-making. These conversations have reflected the diversity of our neighbourhood and the importance of creating space where different perspectives can be heard, respected, and held with care.

A key focus in my role has been supporting inclusive and culturally grounded approaches to community work, including ongoing reflection on Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and relating. I am grateful for the continued learning that comes through community engagement, and for opportunities to witness cultural teachings and practices that deepen our collective understanding of place, responsibility, and belonging.

It has also been inspiring to see the breadth of community connection through programs and events such as the staff training with Hummingbird Rising, drum-making and drum-waking workshops, art galas, community lunches, Circle of Culture gatherings, and seasonal community events. These moments reflect the heart of Marpole Neighbourhood House where relationships are built, stories are shared, and community is strengthened.

As we look ahead, I remain committed to supporting meaningful engagement, strengthening connections with underrepresented communities, and continuing to foster spaces where all people feel welcomed, valued, and included.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, Board members, and community members who make this work possible. It is an honor to serve alongside you.

With warmth,

Luke Guilbault

Marpole Neighbourhood House
Community Board Chair





35 COMMUNITY
LUNCHES SERVED

89

CHILDCARE
SPACES
OFFERED



YOUTH
PARTICIPANTS

31

143

CHILD & YOUTH
PROGRAM DAYS



32

PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY
EVENTS

12

25

SCHOOL AGE
PARTICIPANTS

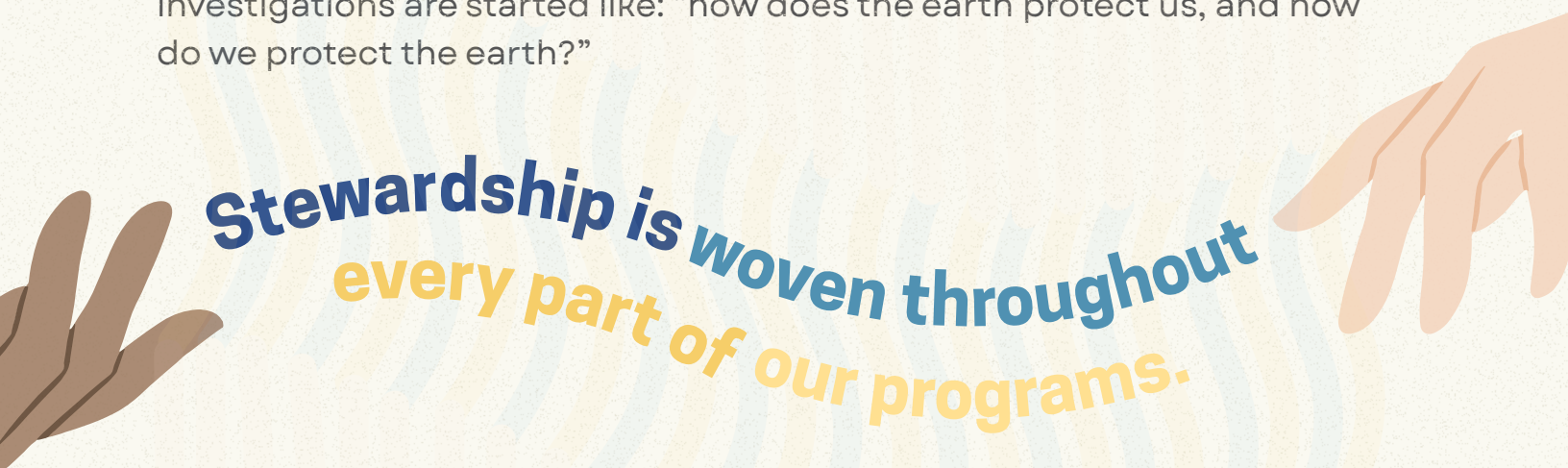
Childcare



Children to Mother Earth & Land Stewardship

As kin to this land, we are beholden to Mother Earth. In a time where we are learning of Truth and Reconciliation, here at Marpole we are leaning into reconcili-action. We have stepped into this journey of learning as a community, together with our families, children, educators, and our neighbours around us.

We are seeking knowledge from Indigenous ways of being – through conversations, books, and by listening – as we learn alongside each other about all the gifts Mother Earth gives us. **Stewardship is woven throughout every part of our programs**, as inquiries are formed, and investigations are started like: “how does the earth protect us, and how do we protect the earth?”



**Stewardship is woven throughout
every part of our programs.**

We seek answers through our daily explorations as **we engage in meaningful conversations together**. On our walks through our community, we notice people caring for their gardens or graciously sharing their harvest with us to bring back to our programs. We watch the colours of the seasons come and go. We are honoured to feel the wind blow through our yards and the warmth from the sun. As we move through our yards, we become one with the land again as we feel the earth beneath our feet, dig our hands into the soil, and share space with the winged ones, and the crawlers.....

Childcare



Community Collaborations - *The Butterfly Garden*

We started with ideas, earth, fence and collaborated with the MNH gardeners to create a project that has touched all our programs and the Neighbourhood of Marpole.

What better way to celebrate Earth Day than by planting a garden? The gardeners previously came to visit our yard to see what we had available for space. After some planning with them and the children, we decided on a butterfly garden!

The children previously worked together to help to prep our space for some new plants. We added soil and mixed it together, and they created a fence.



**"We Do Not Inherit the Earth
from our Ancestors,
We Borrow it
from our Children."**

Childcare



Community Collaborations - *The Butterfly Garden*

The gardeners came ready with all of the plants they generously chose to **share with us** from their gardens at the neighbourhood house. They were so impressed by the children's fence they had created and the stepping stones across the garden.

We created some signs and set them up so everyone knew this garden was for the butterflies.



*Marpole M4
Gardeners*



Sharing their knowledge of gardening and earth worms for the **Land Stewardship project**.



Childcare



Community Collaborations - *Neighbourhood Walk*

A wonderful neighbor saw us observing his garden, and he came out to explain to us all the different vegetables that he had. Carrots, potatoes, strawberries, cilantro, and more.



We explore our neighborhood together and support the children in discovering the world around them.



We are truly grateful we are for having found such a warm and loving community at MNH. We know our children feel joyful in the space and enlivened by the thoughtful, kind and playful care you all provide. Truly, we give thanks daily for having found this daycare.

Infant, Toddler and School Age Program Parent



Reframing Marpole



Engaging Residents, Creating Opportunity

This year, we continued our Reframing Marpole work in partnership with South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, engaging residents and community members in conversations about belonging, equity, and representation. Through this work, we sought **to elevate the voices of equity-seeking groups** and create opportunities for community members to share their experiences, perspectives, and aspirations for the future of Marpole.

While we were not successful in securing ongoing funding for this initiative, we are incredibly proud of what was accomplished and the relationships that were built along the way. More importantly, the framework and principles of reframing have become embedded in how we approach our work across the organization. We remain committed to ensuring that the **voices of Marpole residents** continue to inform decision-making and shape the programs, services, and community-building efforts that impact their lives.



Seniors Programs



Senior Central at Marpole

The Senior Central program takes place every Monday and brings together 10 to 15 older adults in a welcoming and inclusive space designed to promote social connection, well-being, and lifelong learning. The program provides a safe environment where participants can **build relationships, share experiences,** and remain actively engaged both physically and emotionally.



Each session includes a variety of structured activities such as movement and dance for physical health, creative crafting for self-expression, and workshops led by guest specialists on topics like health, wellness, and community resources. Cultural days, outdoor neighborhood activities, and collaborations with partner organizations further enrich the experience. Through these efforts, **Senior Central helps reduce social isolation, strengthen community ties, and enhance the overall quality of life for participants.**

Settlement Services Program



Assisting Newcomers to Marpole

Settlement Program provided comprehensive support to more than 100 newcomer and families in the Marpole community. Through a client-centered and culturally responsive approach, the program delivered individualized services, group programming, and community engagement initiatives aimed at facilitating successful settlement and integration.

Service Delivery

Clients received assistance through:



One-on-one support sessions, addressing immediate settlement needs



Referrals to essential community resources and services



Active engagement and invitations to participate in MNH programs

These services helped newcomers navigate key aspects of life in Canada, including housing, employment, healthcare, and social integration.



Settlement Services Program



Programs and Workshops

The program delivered a diverse range of workshops and group activities, including:

Two cohorts of the LEEP
(Leadership/Employment/
Empowerment Program), supporting
skills development and community
integration

**10 restorative circles in both English
and Spanish**, facilitated with the
support of Elder Ruby, fostering
healing, connection,
and community dialogue

Educational workshops included:



Financial literacy
(in partnership with WFG)



Transportation access
and sustainability (Eco Voyage)



Tenancy rights and
responsibilities (TRAC)



Housing access
and navigation



Migration-related grief and emotional well-being
(in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate)

Additionally, the program delivered a **wellness initiative led by psychologists and therapists**, supporting mental health and emotional resilience among newcomers.



Settlement Services Program



Employment & Integration Support

To support economic integration, the program offered:

- Resume writing workshops
- Interview preparation sessions
- English Class for newcomer

These activities helped participants build confidence and improve their readiness for the Canadian job market.

Community Engagement

The program fostered belonging and inclusion through:

10+ outreach events in Marpole, increasing awareness and accessibility of services



A community Open House, connecting newcomers with services and networks

Cultural events and community gatherings



Settlement Services Program



Partnerships and Collaboration

The Settlement Program strengthened its impact through over **five collaborations with external organizations**, enhancing service delivery and ensuring newcomers had access to a broader network of support.

Impact

Through its integrated approach, the Settlement Program has:

Reduced barriers to access
for essential services

Strengthened community
connections and social
inclusion

Increased awareness of
settlement resources within
the Marpole community

Supported the emotional and
economic well-being of
newcomers



Programs Highlights



Circle of Cultures Community Dinners

Our Circle of Cultures dinners continued to bring people together across generations, cultures, and lived experiences. These gatherings created opportunities for **neighbours to share meals, stories, traditions, and perspectives** in a spirit of curiosity and respect. In a time when many people feel increasingly disconnected, these evenings reminded us of the power of coming together around a table.

A special note of gratitude goes to Knowledge Keeper Ruby Harry, whose wisdom, teachings, and healing songs have become an integral part of each gathering. Ruby's guidance helps create a space where participants can reflect, connect more deeply with one another, and engage in meaningful conversations grounded in **respect, relationship, and reconciliation**.

Her presence has enriched our community in countless ways and continues to inspire learning, healing, and understanding.

The dinners have become more than community meals; they are spaces where relationships are built, understanding is deepened, and a **stronger sense of belonging is nurtured**. We are grateful to the many participants, volunteers, and community partners who helped make these gatherings possible and look forward to continuing this important work together.





Programs Highlights

Crochet and Knitting Group

The Crochet and Knitting Group continues to be a warm and welcoming space where members come together to learn, create, and enjoy each other's company. The group is facilitated by CJ, whose passion, patience, and encouragement help crafters of all skill levels build confidence and develop new techniques. It has been wonderful to see new members joining regularly, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the group. Members take great pride in creating beautiful handmade items, many of which are generously donated to be sold, with proceeds used to purchase supplies for future projects. More than just a crafting group, it is a place where **friendships are formed; creativity flourishes, and members support one another** while contributing to the wider community.



Community Family Lunch

Our monthly Community Family Lunches continue to bring neighbours, families, and seniors together to share good food, conversation, and a sense of belonging. Each month, participants enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal prepared in-house, featuring a mix of **cultural dishes, family favourites, and affordable recipes** that families can recreate at home. More than just a meal, these gatherings provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect, build friendships, and strengthen community ties. This valued program is made possible through funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the dedication of our volunteers, who generously give their time to prepare food, set up, serve, and clean up. Their efforts help create a welcoming space where everyone can come together, enjoy a nutritious meal, and experience the **warmth of the community**.



Programs Highlights



Family Resource Programs



“Warm staff, great activities, and a community that feels like home.”

Family Drop-In Participant

Our Family Resource Programs continue to provide a **welcoming space where families can come together, build connections, and support one another** through the shared experience of raising children. These programs offer opportunities for parents and caregivers to slow down, get down on the floor, and engage in meaningful play alongside their children while creating lasting memories and strengthening relationships.

Throughout the year, families enjoyed visits from community partners, including public health nurses and librarians, who shared valuable information, resources, and early literacy experiences. These connections helped families access support, ask questions, and **learn more about the services available within their community.**

Perhaps most importantly, our Family Resource Programs foster a sense of belonging. New friendships are formed, experiences are shared, and families discover they are not alone in their parenting journey. By creating spaces where children can play and caregivers can connect, **we are helping to build stronger families and a more connected neighbourhood.**

Programs Highlights



Youth Action Program

This year, the youth group planned and led community initiatives, including fundraising campaigns in support of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the BC SPCA. They also participated in workshops focused on financial literacy, mental health and wellness, résumé preparation, job readiness, and completed a first aid course. Through these experiences and volunteering with the after-school program, **youth strengthened their leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills** while gaining valuable hands-on experience to support their future educational and career goals.



Homework Club

Marpole Neighbourhood House offers a Homework Club on Tuesdays and an After-School Program on Thursdays for children ages 5–12. These programs provide a safe and supportive environment where children can build confidence, develop social skills, and engage in fun, enriching activities. Participants receive homework support and explore creative projects. Children also participate in community clean-up initiatives, helping them develop a sense of **responsibility, environmental stewardship, and connection to their neighbourhood**. Through these experiences, children build friendships, learn new skills, and grow in a welcoming community environment.

Programs Highlights



Gathering Gardeners Group

The Gathering Gardeners Group continues to bring people together through a shared **love of gardening, learning, and community connection** under the leadership of Dianne, our dedicated master gardener, neighbour, and volunteer. This year, the group hosted a successful plant sale featuring plants grown in-house, raising funds to purchase supplies and support ongoing garden maintenance.

Dianne also secured the Neighbourhood Small Grant, which enabled the group to host an irrigation workshop for community members and install a watering system throughout the garden. The new system has made it easier to care for the garden and helped the garden **flourish** throughout the season.

The worm compost bin project continues to grow, with neighbours borrowing worm bins to care for at home, creating opportunities to learn about sustainability while **strengthening our shared commitment** to caring for the environment and our community.



Volunteer Program



Creating Opportunities, Building Connection

Volunteers are at the heart of Marpole Neighbourhood House, bringing their time, talents, and passion to every corner of our organization. This year, we revitalized our volunteer program by implementing a new onboarding process and volunteer management system, creating a more supportive and streamlined experience for both new and returning volunteers.

Today, volunteers contribute across all areas of the house, supporting programs, events, services, and community initiatives. Many of our most beloved programs are volunteer-led, including our community gardening program, crochet group, art workshops, and yoga classes. These activities not only enrich community life but also create opportunities for residents to share their skills, **connect with neighbours, and foster a sense of belonging.**

As a neighbourhood house, we believe that community members are not simply participants—they are co-creators. We are always looking to our community for ideas, inviting residents to share their interests, identify emerging needs, and lead activities that reflect the unique strengths and passions of our neighbourhood. Through volunteerism, we continue to build a **vibrant, welcoming, and connected community** where everyone has something meaningful to contribute.



MNH Art Show



Bridging Community Through Creativity

This year, Marpole Neighbourhood House was proud to once again host our Community Art Show, a free event that welcomed residents, families, artists, and visitors to experience the creativity and talent that exists throughout our community.

Throughout the day, guests explored a diverse collection of artwork, connected with local artists, and enjoyed a space where **creativity, conversation, and community could flourish.**



MNH Art Gala



Fundraising with Community

Building on the success of the Art Show, we introduced a new fundraising Gala component in the evening. The Gala transformed the space into a lively and celebratory gathering where **supporters, sponsors, community leaders, and residents came together** to raise funds in support of the programs and services offered by Marpole Neighbourhood House. Expertly emceed by former MLA Michael Lee and Christina Lee, the evening featured live entertainment, opportunities to connect with friends old and new, and a shared commitment to strengthening our community.

We were honoured by the incredible support of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, artists, and guests. We extend special thanks to Pederson and to our MLA, Sunita Dhir, for their generous support and commitment to community. The success of both the Art Show and Gala demonstrated the important role that arts and culture play in **bringing people together and creating a sense of belonging**.

It was a wonderful day and evening of **celebration, creativity, and connection**, and we are already looking forward to building on this success as we plan for next year's event.



Staff Development Day



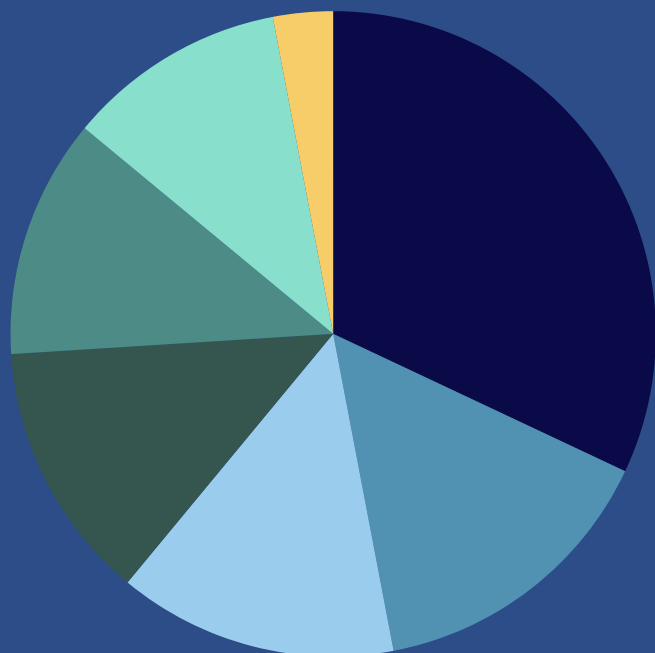
Core Transformation with our Team

This year, our staff development efforts continued to be shaped by the principles of ANHBC's Core Transformation journey. Through learning, reflection, and dreaming activities, staff were invited to imagine what Marpole Neighbourhood House might look like ten years into the future and to consider the role we can play in creating a more **connected, inclusive, and thriving community**.

A key focus of this work was exploring land justice and what it means to give land a voice in how we make decisions, build relationships, and deliver programs. We recognize that this is not work with a final destination. Rather, it is an **ongoing journey of learning, listening, and growing together**. By making space for reflection, curiosity, and collective dreaming, we continue to strengthen our ability to serve community in thoughtful and meaningful ways.



Financial Breakdown



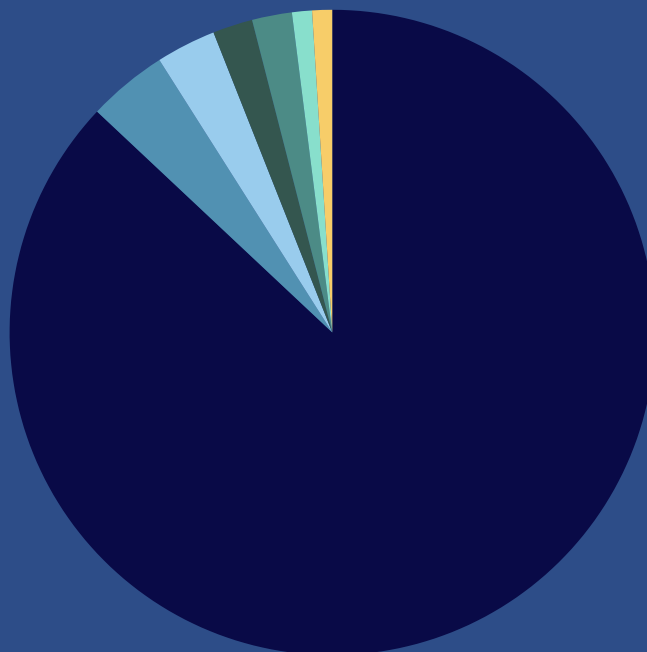
Revenue

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

\$2,461,840

Expenses

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



\$2,503,622

Our Community Advisory Board



Erin Anderson

“One of the most meaningful days I spent an MNH this past year was for a joint staff and Community Advisory Board event to talk about ANHBC's Strategic Framework, and what this looks like for Marpole and MNH. One of my favourite activities was where we were able to share our future hopes for MNH, and what steps we might take today to make those dreams a reality. It was very inspiring to hear so many great ideas and insights from our wonderful staff”



Luke Guilbault

“At Marpole Neighbourhood House, we walk with gratitude on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We recognize that these lands hold stories older than memory, teachings carried by the waters, winds, and cedar roots, and knowledge that has guided communities since time immemorial. Embracing Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and relating, we seek to listen deeply, move with humility, and honor the wisdom held within the land, the people, and the generations who came before us. Through relationship, reciprocity, and respect, we strive to create welcoming community spaces where all people feel seen, valued, and connected. We believe that when we gather in a good way, embracing the richness of our diverse experiences and identities, we strengthen the circle of community and create opportunities for belonging, learning, healing, and collective flourishing.”



Rachel Magarinos Torres

“On April 18th, the House brought together 20 women for three memorable hours of connection and togetherness. Through embroidery, these women shared a mindful moment together – a time to meditate, connect, and create. Marpole Neighbourhood House is always the perfect setting for moments like this – filled with warmth, creativity, and gentle connection”.

Our Community Advisory



Robin Miller

“The Marpole Neighbourhood House has always strived to bring people from all walks of life together. The family lunch program was what welcomed me to the house in the first place, but now the house has broadened the reach of its community and its food with the Circle of Culture dinner series. It has been joyful to join together each month with people, each bringing their own dish, to share a taste of everyone's culture and learn about the featured culture of the month. Thank you to everyone who fed us or enjoyed our food, thank you to the indigenous elders who have guided the meetings, and thanks, of course, to the staff of the house!”



Sandra Suazo

“One clear example of community building was the Art Gallery Show and Gala held in May. MNH brought together the talent and creativity of Marpolian artists. Their artwork was showcased and community enjoyed and celebrated. What stood out most for me was to see how the staff, board members, artists and community members came together with a shared and enjoyable purpose. Under the exceptional leadership and vision of our Executive Director, everyone worked collaboratively to create and carry a successful event. I feel honoured to have been part of such an inspiring and meaningful experience.



Phyllis Tang

“The Marpole Neighbourhood House has served a number of Cultural Dinners in the last few months, allowing the community to learn about specific cultural elements of different ethnic groups. It was a delight to taste special dishes while learning about the meaning behind certain celebrations! Increasing our understanding of different cultural aspects will help us to appreciate each other more. It was my greatest honour to share about why some of us like to eat dumplings during Winter Solstice”



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