

### April 2019 – March 2021

Marpole Neighbourhood House: Year One

# **Annual Report**



**Vision** Everyone in Marpole contributes to a healthy and connected community.

**Mission** Marpole Neighbourhood House provides a safe space and opportunities for Marpole community members to strengthen their leadership capacities and build a better neighbourhood.

 Firehall No. 22 in Marpole is a heritage building that was converted in the mid-1980s into what was known as "Marpole Place" for more than 30 years. In December 2013, a flood rendered the building unusable and Marpole Place was closed. The City of Vancouver decided to refurbish the building for social use in 2016 and invited organizations to apply to operate the facility. The Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC won the contract to be the new operator, and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH) agreed to lead the development of a new Marpole Neighbourhood House.

Land

We acknowledge that Marpole Neighbourhood House is located on unceded Indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish Peoples. Unceded means that this land was never given as a gift, traded, surrendered, relinquished or handed over in any way.

Based on our current knowledge, this includes the territories of the Musqueam, Skxwú7mesh (pronounced Squamish or Skohomish) & Tsleil-Waututh (pronounced: slay-wa-tooth, also known as Burrard) nations. We recognize the vast cultural diversity of Indigenous people and acknowledge the heterogeneity in their opinions, representation, needs and desires.

#### Message from the Executive Director & Senior Director

This year, a mere idea and words on a page were transformed into Metro Vancouver's newest Neighbourhood House in over 10 years. In Spring 2019, Marpole Neighbourhood House (MNH) opened its doors and is now one year old!

In early 2019, Firehall No. 22 was under construction as the City of Vancouver prepared the space for the Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC (ANHBC) to operate Marpole Neighbourhood House. On April 11, 2019, a fundraiser, #THRIVE Marpole, was held to generate funds and build excitement around the Marpole Neighbourhood House. We are deeply grateful for the tremendous support of donors, sponsors, volunteers and attendees who were engaged and generous in their support of this new initiative. At the grand opening in late May, we had a packed house and were joined by representatives from all three levels of government, our partners, local fire fighters, and neighbours galore! The icing on the cake was that Marpole Neighbourhood House opened in the same year that ANHBC celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Since we opened, Marpole Neighbourhood House's small but mighty team engaged in a period of "active listening" to get to know our neighbours in Marpole, learn about Marpole's unique characteristics, and better understand the opportunities and needs in the neighbourhood. Marpole is a vibrant and dynamic neighbourhood. Based on neighbourhood feedback, we piloted various program and projects related to preteens and youth, food security, family connections, and seniors' wellness. There will be much more to do in the years ahead!

We are deeply aware that we are developing a neighbourhood-strengthening organization on unceded, occupied land. We have dedicated space at the Marpole Neighbourhood House in pursuit of reconciliation and to celebrate Indigenous history, art, culture. We hope to work with Indigenous people living in Marpole and/or Musqueam to bring that space to life in a way that is meaningful. We are learning what it means to be an ally in the effort toward truth and reconciliation.

Since before we opened, we have been building strong relationships with many partner organizations who have been engaged with local residents for decades. Many of these partners are now co-located at Marpole Neighbourhood House, offering programs for families, newcomers, and employment seekers. We are working together to develop a Shared Leadership model for the new house. The Shared Leadership team identified four core values to guide our work together: **Inclusive, Community-Driven, Collaborative, Courageous**. We hope to grow the Shared Leadership model and live by our collective values as Marpole Neighbourhood House grows and takes shape in the decades ahead.

We would like to thank all of the donors and partners who have shown such great commitment to the community of Marpole through their generous contributions leading up to and during our first year. We recognize that early investments are risky because donors are supporting an "idea" rather than a thriving organization that they can already see. Thank you for believing in us and supporting the vision for the Marpole Neighbourhood House!

This first year has been one of tremendous growth and change. Adaptability has been the name of the game, and that is not always easy. A huge thank you to our nimble and dedicated team of staff and volunteers. We were put to the test, as was the rest of the community, when COVID-19 hit. This could take an extra toll on a small and very new organization, and we are so proud of the way the team of staff and volunteers has responded to show up in support of community. **Thank you** to the Marpole Neighbourhood House team. To all of our neighbours, we will be there, in lock-step with you, for decades to come.

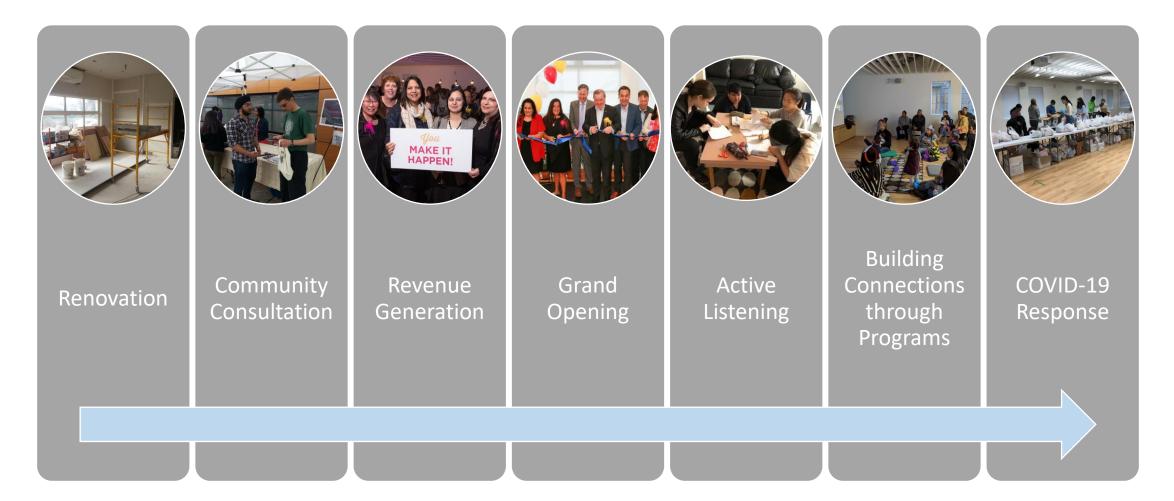


Javier Ojer, Senior Director



Zahra Esmail, Executive Director

## Marpole Neighbourhood House: Year One



### Programs Offered at Marpole Neighbourhood House

#### **Direct Programs**

- Family Meal\*
- Preteen Drop-In\*\*
- Youth Action Program
- Seniors Wellness (Tai Chi, Yoga, Bridge & Board Games)
- Computer Practice
- Arts and Culture\*\*\*

\*In partnership with Marpole Oakridge Family Place \*\*Started in conjunction with Marpole Oakridge Community Centre \*\*\*In development

### **Programs through Partners**

- Settlement Services (SUCCESS)
- Family Drop-In (Marpole Oakridge Family Place)
- Marpole Seniors Focus (Marpole Oakridge Family Place)
- Employment & WorkBC (YWCA Metro Vancouver)
- Moving Forward Program (Pacific Immigrant Resources Society)
- Better at Home (Jewish Family Services)





# COVID-19 and Pandemic Response

The COVID-19 global pandemic highlighted many challenges faced by communities across the world, especially those without strong social safety nets. We are grateful that Marpole Neighbourhood House was open when COVID-19 hit because having already been in the neighbourhood for some time allowed us to quickly mobilize, with support from South Vancouver Neighbourhood House and the United Way of Lower Mainland, in support of local residents in Marpole.

The team at Marpole Neighbourhood House continue to be overwhelmed by the spirit of volunteers who stepped up to do whatever possible to support the community, especially seniors, people with compromised health, and families with young children. This meant helping sort and pack food, making food deliveries, calling seniors to check in on them, and so much more.

**Thank you** to the community of Marpole for stepping up in a strong way. Together, we can and do make a difference!

# Thank you to all of our supporters!

#### Start-up Investors

- Progressive Sealing
- Nicola Wealth Management
- Alexandra Foundation
- A-Mazing Foundation
- City of Vancouver
- Vancouver Coastal Health

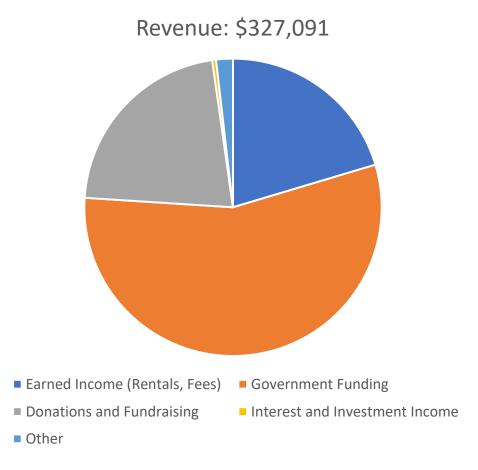
#### **#THRIVE Sponsors**

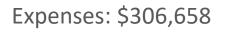
- United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Reotech Construction
- Marpole Business Improvement Association
- CVM Events
- WestJet
- Concert Properties
- Gigi Blin Café
- Innocent Ice Cream
- Lynn Onley

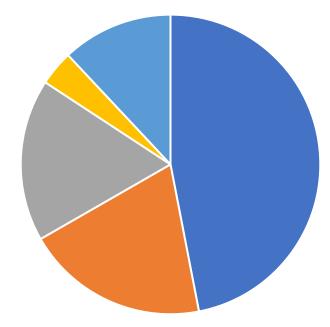
#### Donors

- Heritage Office Furniture
- Vancity
- Perkins + Will
- AMSSA
- Government of Canada Heritage Canada

# Marpole Neighbourhood House Finances







- Salaries and Benefits
- Building Occupancy
- Purchases Services and Subcontracts
- Program, Food, Transportation & Office Expenses

## **Contact Information**

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\*Marpole Neighbourhood House is on the unceded, occupied, ancestral and traditional homelands of the x<sup>w</sup>məðkwəýəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwəta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

