



# NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND & FIELDHOUSE ACTIVATION UPDATE

Regular Park Board Meeting  
Monday, February 3, 2025



- Provide an update on Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee and 2024 projects
- Provide an update on Fieldhouse Activation new initiatives



# RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

## MISSION

### Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

## VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

## VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.



### PATIENCE

Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.



### CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.



### PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.



### LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.



### LEARNING

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.





Hives for Humanity: Cathedral Sq.  
Apiary 2017

Established in 1993, The Neighbourhood Matching Fund (NMF) funds and supports neighbourhood - based projects that facilitate community cultural development and foster community stewardship of park land and other public spaces.

- Supports neighbourhood-based, not-for-profit groups in making creative enhancements to local public land and spaces through arts, local food and environmental stewardship projects.
- Actively involves community in building neighbourhood connections while enhancing parks and public spaces.
- Funds up to \$10,000 per project, matching contributions made through volunteer labour, supplies donated and/or other funds raised by not for profits and community organizations.
- Is funded through Operating: \$50K annually through ARC.

## Guiding Policies and Strategies:

- Neighborhood Matching Fund Policy & Procedures (1993, updated 2020)
- Neighborhood Matching Fund Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (1993, updated 2015 and 2020)
- VanPlay (2019)
- Park Board Arts Policy (2003)
- Biodiversity Strategy (2016)
- 11 Recommendations, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2016)
- Local Food Action Plan (2021)



NMF holds 2 public calls annually. Recipients have two years to complete their supported projects.

In 2024:

- 6 projects funded in 2021-2023 were completed
- 5 new projects were supported

Tsleil-Waututh artist Jordan Galli installs his work at Mount Pleasant CC, 2020

# Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2024 Projects Overview



Community Sponsor	Project	Status
Kiwassa Neighbourhood Services	Community Food Activations at Pandora Park	In Progress
EarthHand Gleaners	Weaving Art & Impact: Tying Plant Threads to Climate Resilience	Completed
Stanley Park Ecology Society	Stanley Park Bog Restoration	In Progress
Britannia Community Centre	Simon James at Britannia Carving Pavilion	Complete
Copley Community Orchard	Connection to the land, the food, and each other at Copley Community Orchard	In Progress
Crosstown Elementary	Indigenous Plant Learning Garden in Andy Livingstone Park	In Progress
Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation	Burrardview Park Food Forest	On Pause
Eastside Family Place	Eastside Family Place 45th Anniversary Legacy Project	Complete
Marpole Neighbourhood House	Marpole Community Garden Project	In Progress
Cedar Cottage Food Network	The Medicine Wheel Garden at Trout Lake Expansion Project	In Progress
Free the Fern	Healing Forest Project	Completed
Hives for Humanity	Tending Together: language, land and shared learning	Completed
Echo park Film Centre	SoVa A-Z: A Cinematic Alphabet	Completed
Joy Kogawa Neighbourhood House	Marpole : Community : Story	In Progress
Yarrow Society	Growing Together in Community	In Progress



# Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2024: Completed Projects



**WORLD PREMIERE**  
**SOVA: A TO Z**  
16MM FILM WITH LIVE MUSICAL  
SOUNDTRACK BY ONIBANA TAIKO



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11**  
**DOORS @ 6:30PM**  
**SCREENING - 7PM**  
**FOOD! FRIENDS! LOVE!!**



**MOBERLY ARTS CENTRE**  
**7646 PRINCE ALBERT ST.**  
**BRING FRIENDS!!!!**



Echo Park Film Collective North: SOVA: A to Z,  
2024

# Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2024: Completed Projects



In 2024 The NMF Advisory Committee funded 5 new projects for a total of \$46,000 :

- Ancestral Foodways
- Eagles in Spirit Indigenous Fathers Soc
- The Gathering Place
- Free the Fern: Braiding Community
- VS Creative Society: Britannia Library Community Mural



Sunset CC Mosaic Path, 2016

Tamara Lee and Prabhi Deol are confirmed new members of the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Community Advisory Committee. The committee:

- adjudicates project calls
- makes recommendations about the NMF program
- reviews completed projects annually



# Neighbourhood Matching Fund 2025: Next Steps



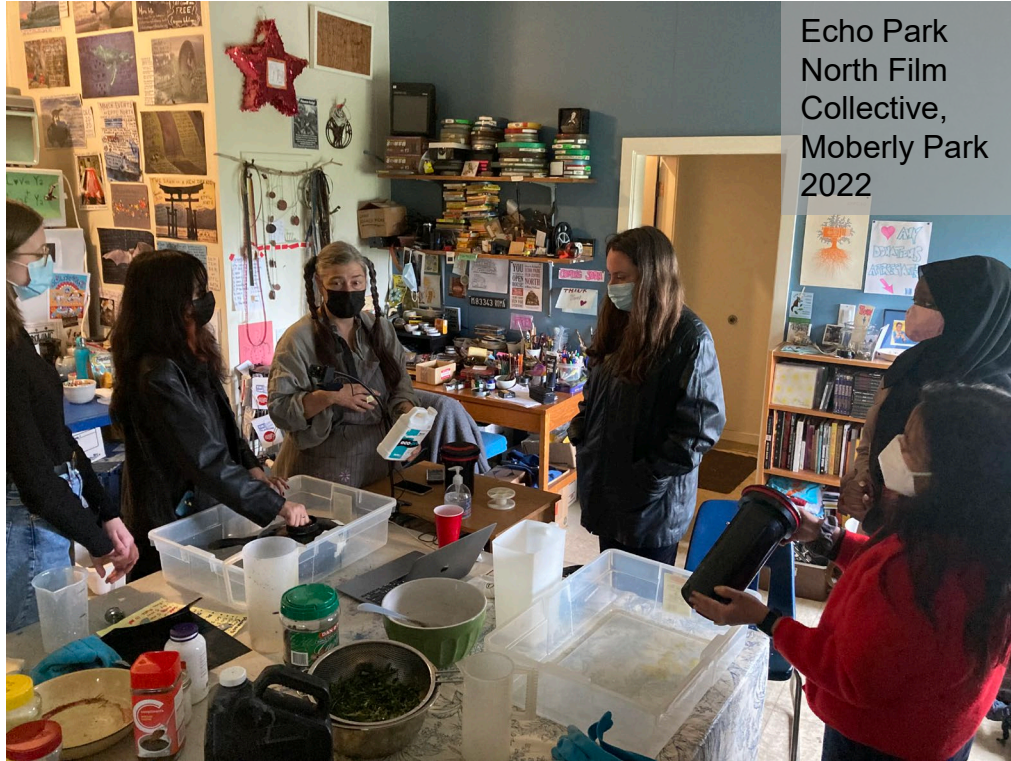
The next Neighbourhood Matching Fund call for projects is scheduled for April 2025

Cloudscape Comic, Sunset Pollinator Path Comic, 2019





# Fieldhouse Activation Program Update



The Fieldhouse Activation has transformed 21 former caretakers suites in parks into studios, workshops and community spaces for:

- Arts
- Indigenous Cultural Practice
- Environmental stewardship
- Local food

with artists, cultural practitioners and community organizations.

# FIELDHOUSE ACTIVATION BACKGROUND



## History:

- 72 field houses in Vancouver parks
- Historical purpose of providing live-in accommodations for park caretakers and concessionaires

## Park Board motion:

- June 27, 2011 - Commissioners directed staff to “explore the potential use of any surplus facilities such as closed field houses for re-purposing” in order to benefit people and communities.
- 2012 – 2024 we now have 18 Fieldhouse Activations in parks where artist collectives, local food, and environmental groups are given access to these spaces in exchange for engaging community.



# Fieldhouse Activation



The FHA Provides workshop and gathering space at no charge for artists, Indigenous cultural practitioners and local food and environmental stewardship groups in exchange for 350 hours annually of community-engaged arts, local food, and environment stewardship. Projects take place over 3 – 6 years. Project leaders:

- ✓ Connect artists, gardeners, ecologists, Indigenous cultural practitioners and local food initiatives to grow community engagement in Vancouver.
- ✓ Engage neighbours and park users, and grow community participation and connection through community engaged/social practice projects
- ✓ Pursue their work in community with in-kind space and staff support from Park Board.
- ✓ Foster collaboration with diverse partners in alternative spaces.
- ✓ Work with openness and generosity toward a curious public.

**140+**

Lead artists, local food practitioners, Indigenous cultural practitioners and environmental stewards

**600+**

Guest artists, knowledge holders, specialist facilitators

**70,000+**

Hours of lead facilitators' time engaging community

**\$500,000+**

In outside funding for free projects and events in parks



**12,000+**  
distinct activities

**300+**  
Performances and events

**20,000+**  
Community participants

**100,000+**  
Audience members at events & performances

# Fieldhouse Activation 2025-27

In 2024, the Fieldhouse Activation said farewell to 11 arts collectives, local food and environmental stewardship groups who had worked in parks for 3 - 6+ years and ARC hosted a public for call for new groups and initiatives.



In 2025 the Park Board welcomes 11 new projects into parks across the city

- Hypha Music
- Hives for Humanity: Holding Ground
- Yarrow Intergenerational Soc.
- Patch Bay Arts
- Xinema Film and Video
- Pan African Unity Soc.
- Community Arts Council of Vancouver
- Earthseed Collective
- Amy Walker
- Patchwork Repair Hub
- EI Mash UP Artists Collective

## Yarrow Intergenerational Society in Strathcona Park

Yarrow's Nourishing Hearts Food  
Program includes community  
gardening, food literacy workshops,  
a seed library and more





## Community Repair Network at Slocan Park

Cultivating community through repair and skill-sharing to foster environmental stewardship, resourcefulness, and mutual aid through workshops and collaborative art projects.

## Holding Ground in Pandora Park

Engaging community through relationships with plant medicines; building connection to land, food, art and culture.





