

# THE SHARING FARM

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021



The Sharing Farm is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded Coast Salish territories of the ḥw̓r̓æθkʷə́y̓əm (Musqueam), ḡíćə́y̓ (Katzie), q̓w̓a:ń̓łə́h̓ (Kwantlen), Semiahma (Semiahmo), sc̓əw̓aθən məsteyəx (Tsawwassen), q̓iq̓éy̓t (Qayqayt) and kw̓íkʷə́ł̓əm (Kwikwetlem) nations. We are grateful to live, work, and play on these lands and waters.

## FULFILLING OUR VISION

Healthy local produce for all, through sustainable farming and community engagement.



### Mission

We grow food and community through farming, to advance food security, reconnect people to agriculture, and champion sustainable food systems.

### Values

The Sharing Farm values ecological stewardship, positive action and collaboration. The Sharing Farm embraces empowerment and inclusiveness, and acts with respect, gratitude and integrity.

### Stewards of the Land

The Sharing Farm practices sustainable agriculture, to protect our natural environment and allow future generations to farm on this land. Adding compost improves soil health, and cover crops prevent erosion and soil compaction. We use crop rotation to reduce pests and disease, as well as the need for pesticides. We also use drip irrigation and mulch to help conserve water.

The Sharing Farm honey bees are managed using sustainable practices, ensuring bees have access to good forage and retain honey in the hives to promote winter survival. Native pollinators are supported through forage plantings and hedgerows.

### A Bit of History

In the late 1990s there was very little fresh produce available for clients of food banks. Mary Gazetas and several of her friends founded The Sharing Farm, in order to provide healthy food for their neighbours in need. We are fulfilling their vision today, ensuring that Richmond's low-income residents have access to healthy local food, donating over 20,000 pounds of fresh produce, annually. We also sell our produce through our CSA (community supported agriculture) Harvest Basket program, farmers markets and an online store; the proceeds from these social enterprises are crucial to our charitable work.



# HERE'S WHAT THE SHARING FARM SHARED IN 2021



**20,817 LBS**  
of produce donated to the  
Richmond Food Bank



**1,440 LBS**  
of produce donated directly to  
families via weekly Harvest Baskets

**22,257 LBS TOTAL FARM PRODUCE DONATED**

During the growing season, Sharing Farm vegetables are on the plates of up to 2,000 people a week.

## Executive Director's Report

*On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Sharing Farm Society and our dedicated staff, it is my privilege to thank you — our members, volunteers, donors, sponsors and supporters — for helping The Sharing Farm grow and deliver healthy local food to people facing food insecurity in our community. I particularly want to acknowledge the tremendous support we receive from the City of Richmond; their backing makes this organization possible.*

*During the second year of the pandemic we began to adjust to the new normal. We began to rebuild our volunteer numbers, moved our workshops online, grew our online store and (thanks to the Flower Power Team) filled our farm with an abundance of flowers.*

*Thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication we were able to donate 22,257 lbs of produce to the Richmond Food Bank as well as directly to families through donated Harvest Baskets. The pandemic has really thrown a spotlight on the importance of food security, and we are proud that we were able to continue our mission through a time when we were needed more than ever.*

*Within this report you will read about the projects and events of 2021; learn more about the organizations we collaborated with to bring some innovative ideas to fruition; meet the generous funders and donors who supported our work; and hear about how we raised and spent the funds to fulfill our mission.*

Sarah Drewery  
Executive Director

# EVENTS & DEVELOPMENTS



## Root Lifter

A generous group of City of Richmond staff held a prize draw and raised \$1,036 for the farm to buy a new Root Lifter. This tractor attachment allows us to quickly harvest roots such as carrots and beets: vegetables that require much labour and time to harvest by hand.

## Flower Power Team

In 2021, a group of our long-term volunteers came together and started a new initiative to grow cut flowers for bouquets. These flowers were sold as a fundraiser for the farm. The self-dubbed "Flower Power Team" chose the flowers to grow, tended them through rainstorms and drought and grew an abundance of beautiful flowers that decorated our farm. They raised \$2,000 in bouquet sales and greatly enhanced the farm's appearance. This program was entirely designed and implemented by volunteers and we think it perfectly embodies the ethos of The Sharing Farm.



## Construction Crew

Another group of volunteers who grew up organically during the pandemic were our dedicated Construction Crew. These skilled volunteers took it upon themselves to undertake a great number of small construction projects around the farm. From building footbridges and tables, to clearing ditches and reskinning the greenhouse, these volunteers have made huge improvements to the farm.

## Mower

When our walkways and field edges are mowed, slug habitat is significantly reduced, and the public can more easily walk around the farm. Mowing used to be a very time-consuming job. But thanks to the **Richmond Community Foundation's** grant we were able to buy a riding mower, freeing up hundreds of hours of staff time every year to do what we do best: grow food!



# OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

## GET DIRTY. LEAVE WITH GREAT STORIES.



### Individuals Giving Back

As a community farm, The Sharing Farm leans heavily on the generous support of hundreds of people who help with their hands, passion, intelligence, skill and heart. The Sharing Farm's Board of Directors and staff are indebted to the 263 volunteers who were so essential to The Sharing Farm's success in 2021. We have immense gratitude for all who volunteered!

#### INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

Total: 147

Estimated volunteer hours: 2,887

#### GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Total group volunteers: 116

Estimated volunteer hours: 348

As things began to open up, corporate group volunteers were able to return to the farm. Eleven corporate groups donated their time and enthusiasm in 2021. We hope to welcome more volunteer groups back to the farm in 2022.



# SPECIAL PROJECTS



## Classes & Workshops

We were able to offer a number of online and in-person workshops throughout the year, including workshops on vegetable growing, sour dough bread, and cooking. We acknowledge the financial support of the **Province of British Columbia**.

## Sponsored Harvest Baskets

In 2021, 20 Harvest Baskets were sponsored by local businesses. Every week throughout the growing season, these Baskets were donated to 20 families. The BC Muslim Association continued our partnership and delivered these baskets directly to people's homes. Thank you to **Nicola Wealth, Staub Electronics, TD Canada Trust, REIT City Office & Peterson** for making this possible.



## SHARING FARM ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES

In 2021, The Sharing Farm continued to develop our social enterprise program in order to build a reliable revenue stream to support our mission. This included the following:

### Harvest Baskets

Weekly baskets for 17 weeks.

110 Harvest Basket CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares sold.

In 2021, we continued our East Vancouver pick-up point for Harvest Baskets.

### Honey

Produced and sold 500 pounds of honey.

### Online Store

2021 saw us develop and grow our online store, selling fresh produce through most of the season, as well as our honey and garlic. The online store is a great way to sell our produce and also encourages more people to visit the farm.

### Farmers Markets

The Sharing Farm attended thirteen Kwantlen St. Markets. Thanks to all of you who bought our produce at the market.

# SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



For the seventh year, The Sharing Farm offered a three-tier sponsorship program for individuals and companies to contribute to The Sharing Farm and provide healthy local food to low-income families.

## Sponsorship Levels

### **Neighbour Basket**

Sponsor partners provide a weekly neighbourhood basket of fresh vegetables to a low-income family in need.

### **Bee Hive**

In addition to a neighbour basket, the partner sponsors two sustainably-managed bee hives and contributes to apiary maintenance. This level assists with purchasing necessary equipment, providing regular inspections for hive health, and ensuring the bees have adequate forage.

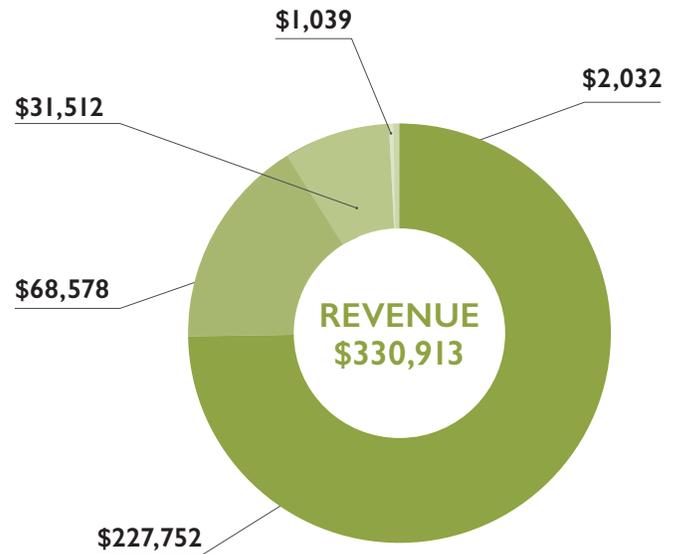
### **Farm Land**

In addition to a neighbour basket, and sponsoring two beehives, this level supports an acre of organically grown vegetables—for donation to the Richmond Food Bank.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

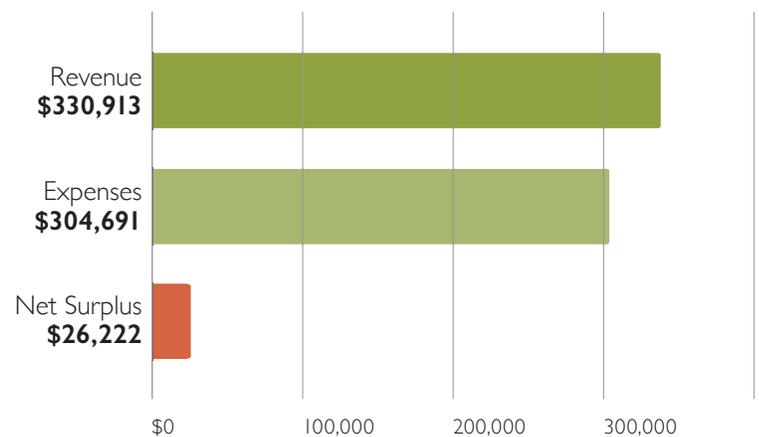
## Revenue Detail 2021

Grants, Donations, Sponsorships	\$227,752
Harvest Baskets	\$68,578
Produce Sales	\$31,512
Programs and Workshops	\$2,032
Other	\$1,039
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$330,913</b>



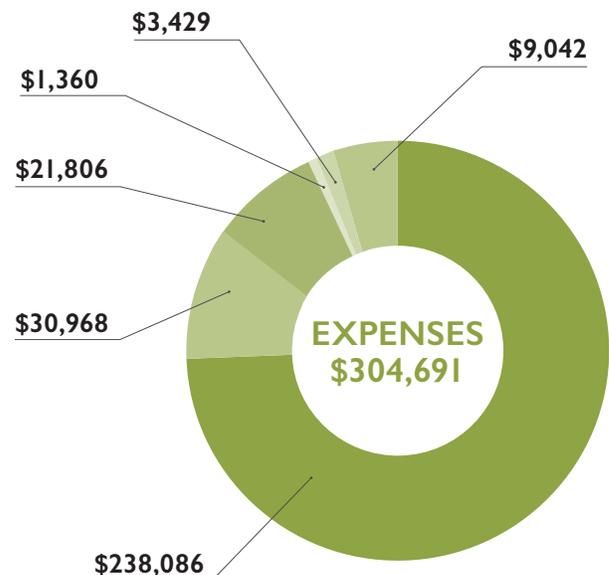
## Income Statement 2021

Revenue	\$330,913
Expenses	\$304,691
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>\$26,222</b>



## Expense Detail 2021

Salaries and Wages	\$238,086
General and Administration	\$9,042
Farm Supplies	\$30,968
Programs and Workshops	\$3,429
Sales and Promotions	\$1,360
Non-cash Expenses	\$21,806
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$304,691</b>



# THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

## Board of Directors

**Doris Bruce**  
*Chair*

Retired Registered Nurse

**Robert King, CPA, CMA, CIP**  
*Treasurer*

Retired

**Sheilagh Pace**  
*Secretary*

Retired Principal

**Ed Sin**  
*Member at Large*

Information Technology, Stork  
Craft Manufacturing, Inc.

**Tyler Pronyk**  
*Member at Large*

Principal, Tyler Allen  
Consulting, Inc.

**Shauna Shortt**  
*Member at Large*

Project Lead, YWCA  
Metro Vancouver

**Traci Corr**  
*Member at Large*

Clinical Research Manager,  
Vancouver Coastal Health

**Kyla Hochfilzer**  
*Member at Large*

**Brandon Kato**  
*Member at Large*

**Adrian Lazar**  
*Member at Large (until Apr 2021)*

Managing Partner,  
Lazar Consulting

## Staff



**Sarah Drewery**  
*Executive Director*



**Leslie Williams**  
*Director of Operations*



**Melad Charkhabi**  
*Farm Manager*

## Seasonal Staff

**Caleigh Smith**  
**Hazel Chan**  
**Megan Stewart**

**Cathy Lin**  
**Jessy Hwang**  
**Olivia Murphy**

**Drew Dostler**  
**Juno Payne**  
**Onny Choy**

**Easton Skara**  
**Kristen Penhall**  
**Tyanna Clark**

**Emma Sawatzky**  
**Leah Isfeld**



# FUNDERS

## 2021 GRANTORS

City of Richmond  
BC Gaming Corporation  
United Way of the Lower Mainland  
Government of Canada  
Richmond Community Foundation  
Metro Vancouver  
TD Friends of the Environment

## SPONSORS

Neighbourhood Basket Level – \$1,000

REIT City Office  
Peterson

Bee Hive Level – \$5,000

TD Canada Trust  
Staub Electronics

Farm Land Level – \$20,000 Donors

Nicola Wealth

## DONORS

Stantec  
Royal Bank of Canada  
Tense Watches  
TELDON



# THANK YOU

TO OUR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Watson Gloves  
Unity Tech  
REIT City Office  
Jewish Family Place  
Hapa Collaborative  
Peterson  
Article  
Nicola Wealth  
Lees & Associates  
Central 1 Credit Union  
PFM Executive Search





**THE SHARING FARM SOCIETY**

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