

THE SHARING FARM

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



The Sharing Farm is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Coast Salish territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) people. We are grateful to live, work, farm and play on these lands and waters.

FULFILLING OUR VISION

Access to 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.

The use of compost and cover crops improves soil health, reduces erosion and compaction, and adds nutrients. We practice crop rotation to reduce pests and disease, as well as the need for pesticides. We 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 and birds 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 community members facing food insecurity. This vision continues today. The Sharing Farm annually donates on average 20,000 pounds of fresh produce to a wide range of recipients, including the Richmond Food Bank, the Musqueam Nation, community meal programs and faith-based food initiatives, as well as directly to "food-insecure families". We also run numerous social enterprises to help support our work. Community members are able to purchase our sustainably grown local produce through our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Harvest Basket program, a Farm Stand, farmers markets, and an online store.



HERE'S WHAT THE SHARING FARM SHARED IN 2023



**26,825 LBS TOTAL PRODUCE DONATED
TO THE RICHMOND FOOD BANK,
THE MUSQUEAM NATION, AND DIRECTLY TO FAMILIES VIA
HARVEST BASKETS & COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAMS**

During the growing season, Sharing Farm vegetables are on the plates of up to 2,200 people a week.

Executive Director's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Sharing Farm Society and our dedicated staff, I would like to thank you — our volunteers, donors, members, 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.

This year we were honoured and delighted to begin a partnership with the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) Nation. Biweekly from June through October, we collaborated with Athiana Acres and Sweet Digz Farm to deliver a truckload of veggies and flowers to the Musqueam reserve for their free farmers market. Day Camp kids and youth came out in July to explore the Farm, and a group of Elders spent an August afternoon making bouquets with our Flower Power volunteer team. We look forward to building this important partnership in 2024 and beyond.

Thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication, we were able to donate a record 26,825 pounds of produce to our many recipients this year. According to our colleagues at the Richmond Food Bank, food insecurity continues to increase under the dual pressures of severe inflation and the very high cost of living in the Lower Mainland. Our work continues to contribute meaningfully to the lives of many, including our own.

Thanks to all of you in our community who attended our events, purchased our produce, donated time or money, spread the word about our work, and helped us get that work done.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leslie Williams'.

Leslie Williams
Executive Director

EVENTS & DEVELOPMENTS



Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change visits the Farm

We were honoured to host a visit from Minister Steven Guilbeault, who was investigating food security initiatives and sustainable agriculture in the Lower Mainland. He was accompanied by local MPs Parm Bains and Wilson Miao, Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Richmond City Councillor Bill McNulty. Pictured, from left, Jason Kita (City of Richmond), Erika Hurth (Richmond Nature Park Society), John Irving (City of Richmond), MP Wilson Miao, MP Parm Bains, Sharing Farm Executive Director Leslie Williams, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Richmond City Councillor Bill McNulty, and President of Richmond Nature Park Society Brenda Bartley-Smith.

BC Minister of Agriculture visits

BC Minister of Agriculture Pam Alexis, along with Steveston MLA (and Sharing Farm CSA/Harvest Basket member) Kelly Greene came to the Sharing Farm this summer to check out what we're up to.



Farm Manager transition

In August, Farm Manager Melad Charkhabi moved back to Ontario to be closer to his family and pursue a new career as an electrician. Melad started working at the Farm in early 2020, right before Covid, and helped shepherd the Farm through that difficult time. He made many improvements to field operations through his keen attention to detail and his constant fine-tuning and development of systems. His extensive knowledge and amazing work ethic made him an exceptional farmer, and we are grateful for his four years of dedication to the Farm.

New Farm Co-Managers

Lead Field Assistants Nikolai Neun-Hornick and Jacky Hamer stepped up and into the role of managing the Farm this fall. They did an exceptional job taking on this new responsibility and modeling cooperative leadership. At the end of the season, Jacky decided to explore a different career path, and Nikolai was hired as our new Farm Manager.



OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

GET DIRTY. LEAVE WITH GREAT STORIES.



Individuals & Groups Giving Back

As a community farm, the Sharing Farm leans heavily on the generous support of hundreds of people who help with their hands, backs, passion, intelligence, skill and heart. The Farm's Board of Directors and staff are indebted to the 531 volunteers who were so essential to the Farm's success in 2023. We have immense gratitude for all who volunteered!

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

Total: 223
Estimated volunteer hours: 2,561

GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Total group volunteers: 308
Estimated volunteer hours: 800

Corporate group volunteer teams provided immense help this year, particularly in harvesting and processing thousands of pounds of bok choy, carrots, potatoes, and beets for donation. Twenty corporate groups donated their time, enthusiasm, and hard work in 2023.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Musqueam Partnership

Kids and youth from the Musqueam Day Camp spent time at the Farm harvesting carrots, learning about pollinators, and snacking on fresh veggies. A group of Elders came out on a brilliant summer's day to make bouquets with some of our Flower Power volunteers. Biweekly from June through October, we donated lots of veggies and flowers to the Musqueam Reserve for their free farmers market.



Artist in Residence

Thanks to the City of Richmond's Engaging Artists in Community Grant, the Farm and Terra Nova Nature School jointly hosted artist Aaron Friend Lettner for a series of workshops on lumen printing, the art of making photographic images with sunlight.



Senior Volunteering

New Horizons for Seniors again supported the Farm in providing transportation and lunch for the seniors from Minoru Centre and the Afghan Women's Refugee Group, who helped us clean hundreds of pounds of garlic!



13th Annual RICHMOND GARLIC FEST

This year's Richmond Garlic Fest had a bustling market, sustainable agriculture workshops, amazing live music, delicious food, diverse vendors, bird-of-prey demonstrations run by the City of Richmond Nature Park team, and lots and lots of garlic.



THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Board of Directors

Doris Bruce
Chair

Robert King, CPA, CMA, CIP
Treasurer

Nureen Nagra
Secretary
Member at Large

Sheilagh Pace
Member at Large

Shauna Shortt
Member at Large

Traci Corr
Member at Large

Kyla Hochfilzer
Member at Large

Debbie Yang
Member at Large

Brandon Kato
Member at Large

Ed Sin
Member at Large

Staff



Leslie Williams
Executive Director



Melad Charkhabi
Outgoing Farm Manager



Sarah Drewery
Richmond Garlic Fest Director



Jacky Hamer & Nikolai Neun-Hornick
Co-Farm Managers



Jenna West
Program Coordinator

Seasonal Farm Staff

Farm Assistants:
Leah Isfeld,
Emma Sawatzky

Field Assistants:
Hans Lam, Ryan Cheung,
Miko Pelletier

Volunteer Coordinator:
Ally Van Tassel

Workshop Coordinator:
Kristen Penhall

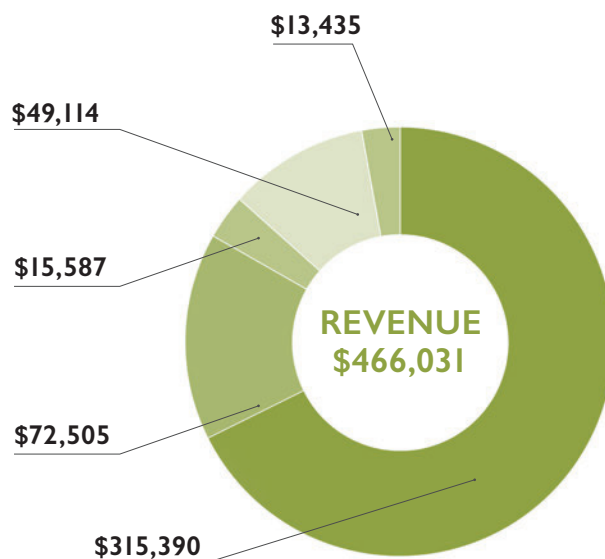
Event Coordinator:
Javid Suleman



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

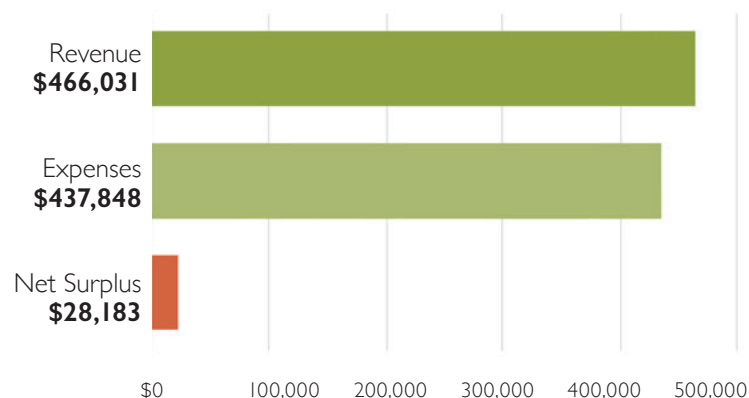
Revenue Detail 2023

Grants, Donations, Sponsorships	\$315,390
Harvest Baskets	\$72,505
Produce Sales	\$15,587
Programs and Workshops	\$49,114
Other	\$13,435
Revenue	\$466,031



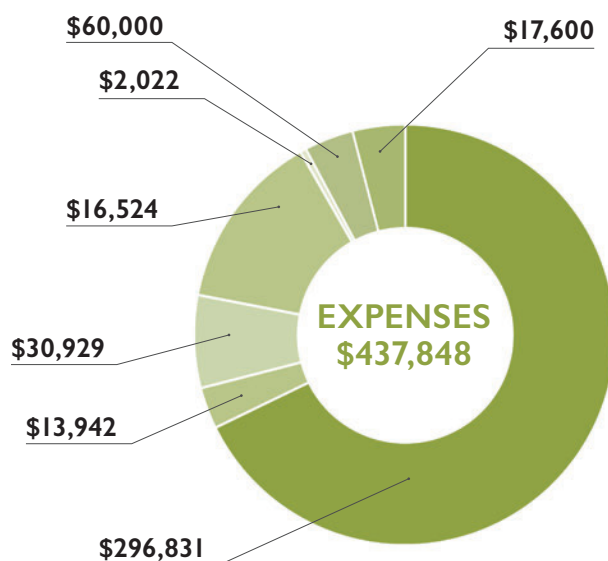
Income Statement 2023

Revenue	\$466,031
Expenses	\$437,848
Net Surplus	\$28,183



Expense Detail 2023

Salaries and Wages	\$296,831
General and Administration	\$13,942
Farm Supplies	\$30,929
Programs and Workshops	\$16,524
Sales and Promotions	\$2,022
Contingency	\$60,000
Non-cash Expenses	\$17,600
Expenses	\$437,848



SHARING FARM ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES

In 2023, the Sharing Farm continued to develop its social enterprise program in order to build a reliable revenue stream to support its mission. This included the following:

Harvest Baskets – Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program

- Weekly baskets for 17 weeks
- 100 Harvest Basket shares sold
- Pickup at the Farm or East Vancouver

Farm Stand

In 2023, we expanded our Farm Stand days to Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Many folks from the neighbourhood, as well as park passersby and corporate volunteers, purchased produce from our stand in front of Mary's Barn.



SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

For the eleventh year, The Sharing Farm offered a three-tier sponsorship program for individuals and companies to contribute to the Sharing Farm and provide nutritious food to food-insecure families.

Sponsorship Levels

Neighbour Basket

Sponsor partners provide four months of a weekly basket of fresh vegetables to a family facing food insecurity.

Beehive

In addition to a Neighbour Basket, the partner sponsors two sustainably managed beehives 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 sponsoring a Neighbour Basket and two beehives, this level supports an acre of sustainably grown vegetables.



THANK YOU

TO OUR FUNDERS

2023 GRANTORS

City of Richmond
BC Gaming Corporation
Province of BC
Government of Canada
Richmond Community Foundation
Metro Vancouver
TD Friends of the Environment

DONORS

TELDON
West Coast Seeds

GARLIC FESTIVAL SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

City of Richmond
Province of BC
TD Canada Trust
Nicola Wealth Management
Rain or Shine Ice Cream
Whites LES
Metro Vancouver
Yelp
Steveston Insider
Edible Vancouver
Vancouver Community College
– Chef Hamid Salimian

SPONSORS

Neighbourhood Basket Level –
\$1,000 - \$4,999
Staub Electronics
RW Digital

Beehive Level –
\$5,000 - \$14,999
TD Canada Trust
LaFarge

Farm Land Level –
\$15,000 and up
Nicola Wealth

THANK YOU

TO OUR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Nicola Wealth
YVR
Microsoft
Full Circle
Lafarge
Coast Capital (4 Times!)
Elite Marketing
VCC
Recycle Smart
RCG Group
Gore Mutual Insurance
Optum/ Change Healthcare
The Humphrey Group
Layfield Group
Michael Green Architecture
Motorola
BC Housing





THE SHARING FARM SOCIETY

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