



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

[HIVESFORHUMANITY.COM](https://hivesforhumanity.com)

SOCIAL
IMPACT
THROUGH
THE
BEEES



Hives for Humanity builds connection through bees and the gardens that surround them. We empower community members in the Downtown Eastside to foster inclusion and safety in their spaces, share their unique stories and skills, and bolster their self-worth. We work to dismantle stigma and break cycles of violence through building relationships of dignity, trust and respect. We create bridges between communities through the shared humanity that is our connection to nature.

We build together, comb by comb, a healthy hive.



OVERVIEW OF 2020

This past year has shaken up our old ways of doing, both exacerbating and disrupting systems of inequity. We've witnessed and been called to action by the transformational leadership of Indigenous Land Defenders and of the Black Lives Matter movement. We are also in the midst of a global pandemic, with worsening drug and housing policy crises and further widening gaps of inequity. Each of these impacts people experiencing poverty, and those of racialized communities, in more violent and unjust ways.

In all of this, how are we holding ourselves accountable? What actions are we each taking to build inclusion in health and dignity for all? How might we continue to decolonise ourselves, our minds and our communities, everyday?

At H4H we seek to do this through relationships of reciprocity and respect with people, plants and pollinators alike. We utilise the power of language and story to build connection and center the voices of lived experience; we foster self-worth and community pride through our shared work, we celebrate the beauty and strength of diversity, supporting each of us in sharing our unique gifts in this world. This has been the focus of our year, deepening our relationships, sharing our stories. And so, this is the focus of our Annual Report 2020: the stories of our people and our projects.

As one of our Board Members, Jim, reflected while reviewing this introductory overview: "Difference is the backbone health, strength and resilience. It is vital that we find ways to include and integrate different skills and points of view, as we do nutrient supplies, artistic influences etc. No single type of weather could provide all the requirements of life in an area, we need sun and rain for growth, as well as wind to create strength. We must seek out differences and celebrate them, while we work to educate hate out of existence."

OUR COMMUNITY VOICES

Our team shows up in many places, sharing their unique skills and experiences in our work, creating meaningful opportunities for connection, advocating for access to health & housing for all. The process of building these bios has been wonderful, thinking about where we come from, where we show up now, and our visions for social and environmental justice which we seek to foster and nurture through our work together.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:



Caitlin Hurley
CHAIR OF THE BOARD
*Chair of the Community
Engagement Committee
she/her/hers*

Cait chairs the Community Engagement Committee and feels fondly that many of the members have watched her grow-up over the last 10 years of living, working and unlearning on the unceded lands of the Downtown Eastside community. Starting as a community partner then weekly volunteer at the Folk Garden, Cait feels proud to have served as Secretary to the Board, Committee Chair and now, Board Chair. With an interest in learning to connect non-profit governance and operations to the land, she brings her experiences in feminist legal operations, cannabis retail operations and community organizing to the delightful world of Hives for Humanity. Cait is practising showing-up for herself and identifies as a survivor; a drug user; a neurodiverse, queer-questioning, cis-woman and is working through building understanding into her maternal Doukhobor ancestry by questioning the ways she has inherited utopian settler ideology.



Shelley Bolton
VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

As the founder, head chocolate maker and director of East Van Roasters, Shelley has one of the sweetest jobs imaginable! She works alongside a dynamic, nurturing and tenacious team of staff, peers and board members of the PHS Community Services Society. Shelley believes deeply in the mission of East Van Roasters and the PHS to foster a compassionate, forgiving and non-judgmental approach to supporting and participating in the community we live, work and play in. Shelley has decades of hands-on experience advocating for individual rights, working in challenging social environments with those affected by difficult personal histories, including persons suffering with mental health issues and challenged capacity due to emotional, mental or physical abuse and addictions.



Tara Taylor
TREASURER OF THE BOARD AND
CO-CHAIR

Tara has worked in the non-profit sector for over 15 years and has been a fervent sustainability activist, working and reflecting across multiple disciplines and sectors to develop community systems that promote social justice as well as a balance between community development and community well-being. Most of Tara's work has been done in the DTES of Vancouver, with a focus on harm reduction.



Krista Loewen
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD AND
CHAIR OF REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION
COMMITTEE

Krista is a passionate advocate for social and environmental justice with a background in geography and sustainable business. She currently works as an associate in Community Investment at Vancity Credit Union supporting the portfolios of environmental sustainability and local and organic food. In her work, she applies a systems approach to advance sustainability and equity in the communities Vancity serves. Krista leads with her values and brings skills in strategy development, critical analysis and group facilitation. With a compassionate and willing spirit, Krista is delighted to support Hives for Humanity with her unique perspective and skills.



Natalie Cushing
MEMBER OF THE BOARD

Natalie has worked and volunteered in the charity and non-profit sector for 15 years. Her specialty is compliance, internal system, and risk management. She is currently the Manager, Shared Platform at Tides Canada and the Vice President of the Board at Stanley Park Ecology Society. Natalie has a diploma in Environmental Technology from Camosun College: an applied natural history program with a focus on the ecosystems and physical geography of Cascadia. She comes from a family of gardeners and hikers who taught her to see each tree, flower, bee, and being.



Paul Van Westendorp
MEMBER OF THE BOARD

Paul is the Provincial Apiculturist for British Columbia, working with the Ministry of Agriculture. With over 50 years of experience as a beekeeper, and 28 years with the province, Paul is an advocate for bees and for systems of agriculture and apiculture that foster the health of the species, which we depend upon for so much. Paul lends his experience from his public-facing role, building partnerships across sectors, as well as his understanding of the honey bee, to our organisation.



Florence Hodgeson
MEMBER OF THE BOARD
Member of the Community Engagement Committee
She/her/hers

Florence joined the Hives for Humanity team when she visited one of our garden and apiary locations in 2012 and started to give her time and energy to the community space. She was a founding member of our Community Engagement Committee. Florence has volunteered and worked at other organisations working towards social justice in the DTES community, including VANDU and PACE, where she has taken leadership roles as a community advocate. Florence, aka Flo, was born in Ontario and has been in Vancouver for 35 years. She is Anishnabe-qwe; from Treaty-3.



Jim McLeod
MEMBER OF THE BOARD
Member of the Community Engagement Committee
He/him/his

Jim believes the Downtown Eastside is brimming with talent the rest of the world overlooks. He is an active community member, working with Hives for Humanity and has served on the boards of the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users and the Drug Users Resource Centre. He is excited about his work with Megaphone Magazine's Speaker's Bureau project, working with audiences and participants to help them see People Who Use Drugs as just that – people. Jim is also a cast and research member of the Illicit Theatre project – a shadow play about peer first responders and the overdose crisis in the DTES. Jim notes that he is not a “functional addict” but that his functioning, all of his community advocacy, beekeeping and gardening, is possible because he is self-medicating with pain medication. Chemically dependent since elementary school, people are often surprised to learn that Jim has a spotless criminal record. Jim was born and raised in Vancouver and his ancestry is Açorean Portuguese on his dad's side, and on his mother's Haida, Kwakiutl and Inuit, with Irish and some British and French.



Winki Tam
MEMBER OF THE BOARD
Member of the Revenue Diversification Committee

Winki enhances and animates public spaces within the 90-block district of the Downtown Vancouver BIA as Lead, Public Spaces & Placemaking. Through her work, she is able to counter Vancouver's grey streetscape by implementing colourful transformations in public space. Her favourite and most recent projects are *snékwem* lane, the waterways street mural by Atheana Picha, and the healthy hands stations. As a facilitator of arts and cultural programming, she is able to build relationships across a wider variety of stakeholders (often including city staff, community organizers, artists, business members, and property managers). With a background in project management, she has organized fundraising events across 30 cities in B.C. and design projects across 3 countries (Mauritius, Netherlands, and UK). She lives in East Van with an extremely intelligent (and picky) border collie named Clover.



Sheri Weichel stepped down from our BOD this year after serving a term of 3 years. Her contributions included development of our Honey Flight and Wax Cloth packaging, our 2019 Garden Party Fundraiser, through her work on our Revenue Diversification Committee. Sheri has also volunteered in our gardens and apiaries alongside our community. *Thank you Sheri!*

STAFF TEAM:



Sarah Common
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER
She/her/they

Sarah is passionate about fostering vibrant and healthy community through empowerment and education, and believes in the profound impact of connecting individuals and communities to their land, food and spirit. She is of Irish settler descent, an uninvited guest on these unceded lands, working to be accountable to the land and to create loving and inclusive opportunities for connection.



Phin
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
They/them

Phin grew up as a settler on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations, where they went on countless suburban nature walks. Phin loves to write, collage, and read oracle cards with friends. They spent their early adult life loving the indoors, disconnected from the land and non-human beings. Phin is thankful for getting to participate in EYA's Roots & Shoots internship, where they reconnected with nature and learned about the land they are on. Reconnecting with nature has been transformative for Phin and has become an antidote for their mood--they recommend spending time with plants to everyone. Phin is excited about land restoration and look forward to learning more from the land & plants while they work on building reciprocal relationships.



Paula Cruise
GARDEN MANAGER
She/her/hers

Paula manages all of the gardens that we create to support wild and managed species of pollinators with forage and habitat. She is an uninvited settler from Ireland and is committed to building meaningful opportunities for skills-sharing and training with our community volunteers and to share her voice with others seeking environmental and social justice. She sees spending time in nature as a gift and loves to see plants growing in communities where species make space and create conditions for mutual growth.



Phil La Flamme
MENTORSHIP BEEKEEPER
He/him/his

As a youth, Phil became fascinated with insects when he began to raise them as a food source for his tropical fish. This interest in insects eventually led him to sign up for a beekeeping course in Calgary in the 1970s. For the next 40 years he managed to make a living off of honey bees in three different regions of rural Canada. He came to Vancouver five years ago to explore how pollinators and plants can help people in an urban environment engage with nature.



Nadine Leitch
OPERATIONS MANAGER
She/her

Nadine was raised in Ontario on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, and the Haudenosaunee (treaty 19) and moved to the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples in 2014. Her ancestors come from many lands, descending from bloodlines in Ireland, Switzerland and France. Nadine's family raised her to explore and be curious about the natural world. These qualities remain very important to her and guide her in all aspects of her life. In Nadine's free time she is often hiking and camping in the mountains or volunteering for organizations focused on salmon population and habitat restoration. Nadine enjoys working with people who are continually weaving skills and knowledge, learning from one another so we can be stronger together, planting seeds for the prosperity of future generations so we can stand together through time like mountains, unshakable.



Leslie Williams
APIARY MANAGER
She/her/hers

Leslie grew up in coastal Georgia and wound her way across North America, ending up in Vancouver in 2007. She has been beekeeping for the last decade, and her interest in honey bees has expanded to include native pollinators. She's deeply committed to food security and habitat protection, for both humans and non-humans.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Standing Committee of the BOD

Members include: Cait, Jim, and Flo (profiles above) and also:



Marc Lawrence

Marc is a gardener and woodworker with Hives for Humanity, he is also a fictional writer, and he does advocacy work with Exchange Inner City, and before that with Carnegie Community Action Project. He was working in the DTES community as a volunteer before H4H got started and continues to share his time, skill and creative energy with the organisation. He participates in local civic politics concerning housing and the housing crisis, including speaking at city hall and with past mayors. His father's parents came from Trinidad and Tobago, migrating to Montreal with other people from the West Indies who were getting jobs as porters on the CN Railroad.



Alice K.

People know her as Ali. Ali has worked at the DTES Women's Centre and now volunteers with Hives for Humanity in the gardens, as part of her process of learning. She was born in Northern Ontario, and named after the midwife who delivered her. Ali raised her kids here in Vancouver, and is now a grandmother, which is Kokum in her language of Oji-Cree.



Robert Alexcee

Robert was born in Prince Rupert, his family originally from Kitkatla, BC, and he is a proud member of the Tsimshian Nation. He has been in Vancouver for 23 years and is sometimes surprised he is still walking! Rob is a gardener and beekeeper, and he makes a mean fried bread too.



James Harley Prosper

James is a long time member of Hives for Humanity, he is a gardener and seed saver, candle maker and CEC member. James hitch-hiked to Vancouver from Saskatoon about 20 years ago as a young pup, roaming around like a night owl. James is Cree-Sodioux, from Poor-Man's Reserve.



Daikole Frazier

Daikole (pronounced "day-kol") was born and raised in Seattle. His father was of Black and Spanish descent and was raised in Kansas, Missouri; his mother was born and raised in Vancouver. Frazier is a beekeeper, gardener and woodworker with Hives for Humanity and joined the Community Engagement Committee in its second year.

BEEKEEPERS AND GARDENERS



Ian Oakes

Ian is a beekeeper with Hives for Humanity. He joined us through the bees at the Hastings Urban Farm in 2016 and has been working with us since. He loves what he does and expresses: I'm glad it found me. Get out into your community and find your way to contribute - we have a responsibility. Even Einstein said, if the pollinators disappear so will we! He has plans in the near future to move to the upper Sunshine Coast, where he will be closer to nature and family.



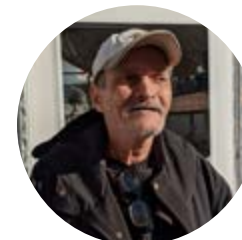
Horace Daychief

Horace comes from land with trees all around, and beavers, wildlife, deer - in the morning you'd see deer walking around. He is a journalist, a poet, and a vendor with Megaphone Magazine. He is a certified cook and completed the KNACK program with Potluck. He is a gardener, beekeeper and a candle maker with Hives for Humanity. Horace wants to see more opportunities for workshops in drum making and rattle making, and opportunities for courses and certification! Moose for the moccasins, elk for the rattles and drums - he is a skilled hide tanner.



Francisco Guardado

Francisco was born in El Salvador where he grew up outside of the city, in the countryside around lakes, rivers and trees. His mother was a medicine woman, and from the time he was born, until the day he left his country at the age of 16, he never went to see any doctor, she had any kind of plant to cure any kind of sickness, including honey bee hives - a part of medicine too! In 2020 he joined the Hives for Humanity team and got involved working with us, through the Hastings Folk Garden. Francisco shares that: "We are part of nature and nature is part of us. We have separated ourselves far from nature, too far, we have created habitats for humans, and we are destroying habitat for the planet and everything in it, for other species, including the animals and trees. For me, when I work in the gardens, I connect to nature and I give back to nature." Francisco's vision for the future is for us to be closer to nature - to have more people involved in programs like ours, working to conserve nature.



Mark DenBak

Mark was raised by Dutch immigrated parents from the Netherlands to Niagara Falls, born within 6 months of their immigration, which gave him the right to dual citizenship. Mark came to Vancouver in 2003, after returning to Canada from a decade spent in the Netherlands where he went to school to crack the nut of the Dutch language! It was a challenging and interesting journey in his life, giving him experience with adaptability, integration and language. He spent time there house painting and working in a machine shop garage, and seeing how that culture prioritises learning and supports the right to protest. Mark is now a gardener with Hives for Humanity, which he says gives him time to think, and he enjoys spending time outside, putting our fantastic effort into the gardens, together!



Kevin Slezziak

Kevin has memories of his mom going to the Doukhobor communities to get honey when he was a 4 year old - pulled with his siblings to go and get interested in bees. He remembers being afraid at first but finding it peaceful and tranquil. That was in Preeceville, Saskatchewan. Kevin is finetuning his skills as a beekeeper, woodworker and brewmaster through work with Hives for Humanity, the Wood Shop Workers' Co-op and the Drinker's Lounge (which he was a founding member of along with other like-minded community members and advocates). Kevin reflects that: community is like a bridge, we need all the trestles so it doesn't fall in. The trestles are the humans, the animals, the food, and the time; all interconnected.

Everyone listed on the teams above supports our gardens and bees, our community of care. Below is the rest of our core team, our beekeepers and gardeners whose skills and time we are honoured to have in our hive!



Theresa Gray *(she/her)*

Theresa is Tsimshian from Prince Rupert and has been living in Vancouver for most of her life. She gardens with plants and sunflowers, watching the bees. She enjoys extracting the honey. She has volunteered with the DTES Women's Centre for 20 years and she loves spending time outdoors in the forests and beaches. She spent quite a bit of her childhood at Stanley Park and remembers having picnics at Second Beach. Sunshine makes her happy; Theresa is a skilled and passionate volunteer at HFG. She has volunteered with community leaders John W. Sam and Earl Crowe to oversee the sacred fire and hold vigil for the sick and homeless. Theresa is a political advocate and has been to City Hall seven times to advocate for Indigenous people. And she votes!!!



Elias A. Billy

Elias was born in Tahsis, Vancouver Island, Nuu-Chah-Nulth First Nation. He moved to Vancouver about 10 years ago on a job to work in the States. He was almost put in holding at the border when crossing, because his finger print wasn't scanning, but it turned out the border cop had been at the hospital in Tahsis and knew Elias' parents, Sophie and Elias, and remembered baby Elias! Elias enjoys working in our gardens and making candles, also working with our co-locators the Wood Shop Workers' Co-op. He also volunteers with WAHRS (Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society) doing outreach in the inner city. He is hoping that we will all make it through this pandemic safely.



Willie Morris

Willie was born in Burns Lake, BC, on January 26 1961 – Nee Thai Buhn Wet'suwet'en Nation - at the old Burns Lake Hospital, which is now called George Brown Memorial Centre. "We were all living in a tent year round, my whole family, at South Bank, without housing – my grandparents, parents, cousins, siblings. South Bank is now a ferry landing. We camped all over the place, wherever Dad had a job is where we went. Mum raised lots of kids, not only her own, but cousins and other kids too from off reserve. It was fun in the summer time, we went swimming and our parents were busy cooking and drying meat for the winter, the brother's going hunting – I wasn't allowed to go hunting but I followed them in the bush with my slingshot and they never would see me. I'd find rabbit and grouse and get back to camp before them. My grandma used to call me Tom Boy. Willie now loves working in our gardens and with the bees, working with our team in the DTES, sharing those spaces with her friends in community. For the future, she'd like for people to quit putting so much waste into the water and land, as we are spoiling the soil for the animals. She'd like the world to have more peace with one another, and share lots of love towards both neighbours and enemies; and to teach the young generations about the old ways and they can teach us the new ways.



Dennis Gates

Dennis was born in Hazelton, BC, the third youngest in a family of 14! His family ancestry is from Haida Gwaii. Dennis is a gatekeeper at the Hastings Folk Garden where he does his best to keep people safe, and watch that people respect the garden, using non-violent communication and ways. He is part of Megaphone Magazine's writing program and was recently published with them.



Robbie Panteluk

Robbie was born in Victoria, raised all over BC, been in the DTES for 56 years on and off! "My mum was a recycler, reusing everything and separating it out, throwing away only the bare minimum - maybe we wouldn't be in as much of a pickle if we'd all done that. If we have social awareness we could become unique!" Robbie is a gatekeeper and gardener at Hastings Folk Garden, since it began which was about 2008 when the site was just a landfill; now it's home for bees and hummingbirds! Robbie is half-Irish half-Ukrainian.

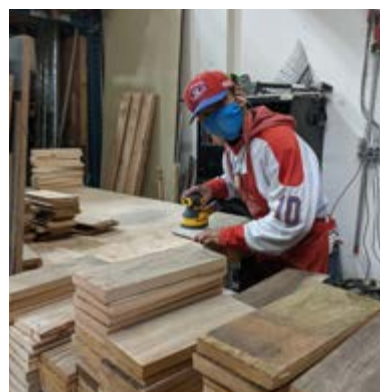
SUPPORTING TEAMS:

SPENCER CREO CENTRE TEAM

Tara, Jared, Patricia, Marnie and Carly! We joined the SCC community of organisations creating transformative opportunities for people in 2019. The support we have developed alongside their team, includes having connected each of our members to wrap-around support opportunities with social workers and support staff. This means that when one of our members needs help navigating government forms, ministry support, housing wait lists, access to counselling, or other forms of support, we have a team ready to listen, and help us navigate these often challenging systems.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE COMMUNITY KITCHEN AND WE PRESS

Kathy, Jason, Athina and team! We joined the DECK team as part of a community response to the pandemic, delivering food to under-housed communities. This team has been providing good meals to about 300 people daily, through partnership with Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU), Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (WAHRS), Overdose Prevention Society (OPS), Aboriginal Front Door (AFD) and Kennedy-Trudeau (KT) Tent City.



WOOD SHOP WORKERS' CO-OP

Chris, Alex, Liam, Kris, Ronnie, Mel and team! Wood Shop not only welcomed us into our shared home, our co-location space which we fondly call our Eyrie, they also work to create employment opportunities for our members, building from our gardens and apiaries into their wood shop, where our members help to upcycle wood into everything from planter boxes to gift crates and custom furniture.

FACILITATORS/COLLABORATORS:

While we pivoted away from public workshops this year due to the pandemic, we did host sessions with our core team of beekeepers and gardeners, where we could either meet outside or online.

- Brian Campbell taught us about creating pollinator turf and transforming lawns;
- Paul Van Westendorp helped us understand better the Giant Asian Hornet;
- Environmental Youth Alliance, Marika Van Reeuyk, developed our pollinator ID skills;
- Dominique Weiss, Kate Smith, Alice Chang and their team at Pacific Centre for Isotopic and Geochemical Research shared with us their work in the UBC Honey Study and BeeHIVE Cluster;
- John W. Sam taught us how to make elk-hide rattles;
- Lori Snyder who shares her medicinal plant knowledge with our community.

Thank you to our guest facilitators who honour us with their time and skill.

PROJECT FEATURES

We have selected a few of our dynamic garden spaces to share story with you; full lists of our locations, partners and funders are located later in this report.

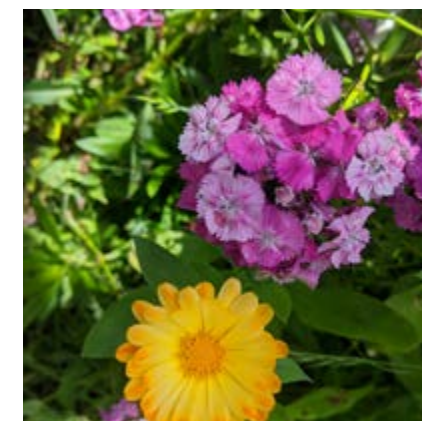
Here are some of our favourite moments and memories from the past year :



THE HASTINGS FOLK GARDEN has always been a welcoming outdoor space to find tranquility and solitude, a safe gathering space for friends, and a place to connect with nature. We all needed this more than ever in 2020 and the Folk Garden provided. The gardening team spread out to plant, prune, weed and water, enjoying the bees on the flowers, the Rufous hummingbird feeding from the penstemon, clever crows ever watchful for opportunities for mischief, and the occasional peregrine falcon observing all from the Empress tree. We built a special garden to feed the hummingbirds with support from a Neighbourhood Small Grant (Vancouver Foundation), planting salvia,

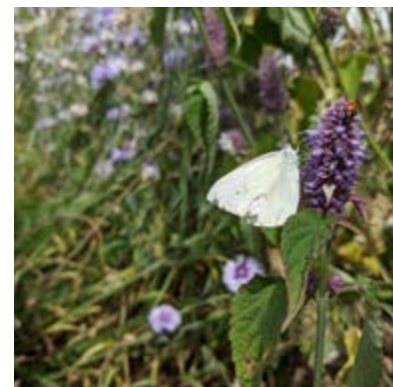
quince, lobelia, crocosmia, columbines, larkspur and anise hyssop and added signage on the biology of Vancouver's two hummingbird species and how we can provide them with forage. This beautiful sign looks stunning alongside our Pollinator Garden sign funded through an ongoing partnership with TD Friends of the Environment.

In July, the Folk Garden hosted a socially distanced scavenger hunt of pollinator plants that was made possible through funding from TD Park People. This fun event saw community members weave their way through the garden stopping at each of 10 numbered plants to learn its role in supporting pollinators. Highlights included the Devil's Club reveal its stunning red berries with a backdrop of showy white flowers from the surrounding elderberry and feverfew and Jim pointing out the two types of plantain underfoot that are not native to this part of the world but are generous in their gift-giving for people and pollinators alike. Everyone left with a snack, an info sheet and a stick of chalk to identify the plants they found along the gardens, alleys and sidewalks of the community.



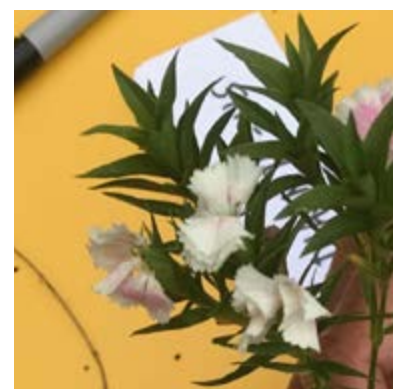
CATHEDRAL SQUARE PARK is another favourite spot in the city where our gardeners could safely spread out while taking care of the pollinator meadow. Supported by Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Neighbourhood Matching Fund and the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, we hosted a pollinator plant scavenger hunt discovering butterfly bush, sunchokes, dock, mints, yarrow to name but a few of the plants that thrive in this busy downtown location. Such opportunities build bridges between the communities of people who live and work near the Park, sharing knowledge, experiences and stories.

Our weekly garden maintenance visits to Cathedral Square concluded with a TD Park People-supported fall clean-up that focused on what we leave behind for overwintering pollinators rather than what we take away. Our winter gardens support insect life cycles by offering habitat in hollow plant stems and in leafy and woody debris left on the ground, and feed birds by leaving seed heads intact. Best gardening practices for pollinators are featured on new signage for the pollinator meadow.



CHARTRAND PLACE, a modular housing location managed by PHS Community Services Society, has been one of our most exciting projects in 2020, as we created an alternative to the grassy lawn surrounding our apiary, and installed a small orchard! With financial support from Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC through its BeeBC program and under the generous mentorship of bee and garden expert Brian Campbell, the garden crew removed the turf, solarized the soil to minimize unwanted seeds germinating, added new landscape soil and re-sowed with a Bee Turf seed mix from West Coast Seeds. Since September we have watched the Bee Turf establish itself, revealing the young leaves of yarrow, alyssum and forget-me-nots alongside the blades of ryegrass and fescue, all of which will provide a sustainable and water-wise meadow offering forage for honeybees and wild

bees. In addition, the project included the rejuvenation and expansion of the existing perennial flower beds to add fruiting shrubs and trees and a more diverse selection of plants that will bloom from early spring to late fall. And did we mention the soil?! There was a lot of beautiful nourishing product from Artisan Garden Group, who have supplied numerous garden projects for us throughout the Downtown Eastside.



THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE SEED LIBRARY has been a staple in the Vancouver Public Library at the Carnegie Centre for a number of years. It was founded in 2014 by Jim McLeod, in honour of one of our Hastings Folk Garden gatekeepers, Neil Benson, who passed that year. The library holds our memory of the love and generosity of Neil and our community gardeners, akin to the gifts that seeds bear with time, opportunity and care. Seeds are gathered from our gardens and through donations, and are available with resources for seeding and gardening, alongside a bee and pollinator library, for free.

With the library closed since March 2020, we sought other strategies to get vegetable, herb and flower seeds into the hands of our community. We were fortunate to team up with Grandview Woodland Food Connection who started

adding easy-to-grow veggie seeds into the more than 500 food boxes that they deliver to community members weekly. We also supplied dozens of schools and community garden groups in East Vancouver with a Seed Shoebox that included carrots, beets, cucumbers, peas, beans, corn, squash and of course flowers loved by our pollinators – sweet pea, calendula, sunflowers and so many more, many of which we collected from our own gardens in the fall.



QUEEN REARING AND MENTORSHIP BEEKEEPING

Our beekeeping team pivoted from workshops into queen rearing, raising 60 queens from our own stock to re-queen our own hives, and an additional 95 queens for sale to support our programming. Queen rearing took place primarily at our apiaries at the Italian Cultural Centre and Sole Food Urban Farm, with a seasonal mating yard hosted through a partnership with The Sharing Farm Society in Richmond. Dunbar Community Centre sponsored us to hold two webinars on queen rearing and troubleshooting. Queen rearing created many opportunities for our lead beekeepers to offer mentorship, share knowledge of queen rearing, and raise healthy queens!

WINTER FUNDRAISER

We have been so proud to collaborate with Gallery Gachet artists to create meaningful opportunities for connection to nature and to art - to support community members in finding self-expression and ways to thrive. We look to the bees to guide us, to the land that supports us all, for inspiration.

This year, ten BIPOC artists from throughout Gallery Gachet's networks each designed a unique hive set along themes of connection to nature, gardens, life, and land. Each of these hive sets found a home through our network, where they will continue to share story and build connection.

Thank you to the artists, and thank you to the communities and individuals who have welcomed this art into their apiaries:

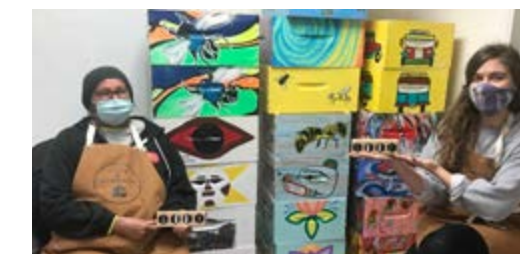
Jeska Slater's set went to West Coast Seeds, one of our partners who supports our DTES Seed Library.

Haisla Collins' set went to one of old board members, Sheri, a beekeeper in West Vancouver who keeps a beautiful pollinator garden as well as honey bees.

Ilirijan Xhediku, Jessica Numminen, J Peachy's and Sandra Yuen's sets will be featured at our Italian Cultural Centre location which we are rebuilding the apiary for this spring through support from Vancity Enviro Fund.

Martin and Shona Sparrow's set, and Jacqueline West's set will be featured at our upcoming ASTORIA Urban Farm, in partnership with DTES Neighbourhood House.

Jacqueline Quewezance and Larissa Healey's sets will be at the Hastings Folk Garden.



WAX AND HONEY

From the sunlight and water, converted by the plants into their various nectars, gathered by honey bees and transformed into honey, uncapped by us to get into bottles for you – it's a beautiful cycle full of hard work by plants, pollinators and people alike!

We couldn't do it without the help of Bill Piche, of Billz Bees, who extracts all of our honey in small batches, so we can share the unique flavours of each neighbourhood and season, thank you Bill for all of your sweet work!

Each of our honey jars and candles, assembled and made by our community beekeepers and gardeners, carries a story of hope: for light amidst the darkness, for change that brings inclusion of all ways of knowing and being, for all of us, interconnected.

Each of these retailers supported our work in 2020 by offering our honey and candles in their shops or through their businesses. Retailers: thank you for supporting local, social impact!

Autostrada

Bacardi

Bandidas Taqueria

Charlie and Lee

Earnest Ice Cream

East Van Roasters

Edible Canada

Fairware

From: Us

Good Omen

Harlow

Harvest Union

Hometown Glory

Le Marché St. George

LIVIA Forno e Vino

The Nook Refillery

Moët Hennessy

NADA.

Neighborhood Quality Goods

Odd Society Spirits

Pacific Basket Company Inc.

Plenty + Spare

Seb's Cafe & Corner Store

Second Nature Home Boutique

SPUD

The Den

The Diamond

The Loose Leaf Tea and Papery

The Quiet Botanist

The Wildbunch

Ubuntu Canteen

Vancouver Special

Welk's General Store

Wilder Snail Neighborhood Grocery & Coffee

RESOURCES CREATED

We created two resources which we are very proud to share with you alongside this report. We build these resources slowly, in collaboration with our beekeeping, gardening and governance teams, and we share them openly in the hope that they might be useful tools for you, encouraging the sharing of skills and knowledge. We are gifted so much by the bees and the people we work with, and we are proud to give the gift onwards here to you.



Colourful, packed with info on bees, and built in collaboration with the UBC Learning Exchange through the UBC Partner Recognition Fund. Members from H4H and UBC LE reviewed our work through multiple iterations, considering content, accessibility and user experience!



Built by our Community Engagement Committee, this toolkit includes our Terms of Reference, outreach booklet, code of conduct, meeting protocol, and year end reports sharing our process. As we see calls to inclusive governance, to centering voices of lived experience, we want to share how we are doing this work internally, throughout our organisation.

If you would like to acknowledge this work we are grateful to support donations to our programming via our website www.hivesforhumanity.com

GARDENS AND APIARIES

Hastings Folk Garden (PHS Community Services Society - PHSCSS)

- 2 colonies
- weekly gardening sessions with 10 participants
- gatekeeper program with garden opened additional 10 hrs/wk
- 5,000 sq.ft of pollinator garden

Hugh Bird Residence (PHSCSS)

- 2 colonies
- 100 sq.ft of resident-tended vegetable garden

Chartrand Place Modular Housing (PHSCSS)

- 2 colonies
- weekly gardening sessions with 5 participants
- 530 sq.ft of pollinator garden

Alexander Street Community Housing (PHSCSS)

- 2 colonies
- weekly gardening sessions with 5 participants
- 3,000 sq.ft of pollinator garden

Sorella Housing for Women (ATIRA Women's Resource Society - ATIRA)

- 2 colonies
- resident-tended vegetable garden



Aneki Place Modular Housing for Women (ATIRA)

- 280 sq.ft of pollinator garden
- colonies removed to make way for Sister Space, an outdoor resource for women in the DTES during the pandemic and overdose crisis.

Yukon Transitional Housing & Shelter (Lookout Housing Society)

- 2 colonies
- resident tended garden

First Place Residence (Lookout Society)

- 2 colonies
- resident tended garden

Marguerite Ford Apartments (RainCity Housing Society)

- 2 colonies
- resident tended garden

Budzey Housing (RainCity Housing Society)

- 1 colony with 80 sq.ft of pollinator gardens across the street at Princess Rooms

Steeves Place (BC Housing)

- 2 colonies
- resident tended garden

Culloden Court (BC Housing)

- 2 colonies
- resident tended garden

MacLean Court (BC Housing)

- 2 colonies
- 250 sq.ft of pollinator garden

Sole Food Urban Orchard (Sole Food Street Farms and Vancity Environmental Sustainability)

- 2 colonies

Cathedral Square Park (Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association)

- 2 colonies
- 2,000 sq.ft of pollinator garden

Italian Cultural Centre

- 6 colonies
- surrounded by a pollinator planter supported apiary

Dunbar Community Centre

- 4 colonies tended by community members who have formed the Dunbar Beekeepers Club
- we provide some mentorship and facilitate workshops

Vancouver Convention Centre

- Green Roof with 4 colonies of honey bees

Science World

- Observation Hive

Massey Tunnel Yard, Richmond

- 20 colonies
- Queen Rearing, Honey Production, Mentorship Beekeeping and Livestock Yard

Overdose Prevention Society (OPS)

- temporary medicinal plant garden

Astoria Urban Farm with DTES Neighbourhood House

- pollinator perimeter meadow (with plans for an apiary in 2021)

The Eyrie

- pollinator garden (our home base in Strathcona where we created a small space of respite underneath a cedar tree, for our colocators and members to enjoy.) Colocators include **Wood Shop Workers' Cooperative, Victory Gardens, Vancouver Renewable Energy, Whole World** and **Made to Fly Design.**

2020
BY
THE
NUMBERS:

22

**PROGRAMMING
LOCATIONS**
with gardens and apiaries (listed above)

56

HONEY BEE HIVES

11,983

**SQ.FT. OF
POLLINATOR GARDENS**
across 9 locations

33

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS
with **582 PARTICIPANTS**

\$40,000

HONOURARIA
*gifted in recognition of approximately 2000
volunteer shifts by our members and guests*

1172 lb

NEIGHBOURHOOD HONEY

1428 lb

BEE SWAX
turned into candles and natural self care products

155

QUEEN BEES RAISED
95 sold, 60 requeening our colonies

FINANCIALS

How do we measure success?

This is a question we ask ourselves and have been working to deepen our shared understanding through our Community Engagement Committee - we measure success in the stories of our people, in the beauty and joy of our projects. We also track our financials of course, and have a few highlights to share.

Overall, we had a break-even year, having accessed Canadian Emergency Subsidies to compensate for a decrease in workshop and speaking engagement revenues.

Thank you to all of our partners, sponsors, funders, donors, volunteers and participants who made this year possible through their gifts of time, love and support.

SUBSIDIES AND LOANS

We accessed the Canadian Employment Wage Subsidy in response to big drops in our revenue due to loss of workshop services. We also accessed a Canadian Business Loan through Vancity. And we are looking currently at the rent subsidy as well. Feeling grateful for these supports, as they made it possible for us to continue offering connection to folks placed further at risk by the isolation and distancing made necessary by this pandemic.

SPONSORSHIPS

Each of the following sponsored one or more of our Therapeutic Apiaries at \$5,000 annual contribution – making possible the workshops, participation, pollination and more, that build inclusion, offer meaningful opportunity and connect people in community:

- **Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation** – supporting our work at Hastings Folk Garden
 - **Earnest Ice Cream** – supporting our work at First Place Housing
 - **Hockey Helps the Homeless** via RainCity Housing and supporting our work at Marguerite Ford Apartments, the Budzey and Princess Rooms
-

DONORS

We love when supporters get creative with fundraising ideas, thank you to these donors who worked with us to build successful campaigns, we hope they inspire you as they have moved us with their generosity!



- **Pyrrha Jewelry** celebrated world bee day with \$25 from each of their bee related jewelry pieces going to our programming for a total of \$1350
 - Chris Kape and family, beekeepers in Kerrisdale, sold their backyard honey by donation and gave us all proceeds for a total of \$650
 - Gary and the team at **Rogers' Lantic Sugar** who keep our emergency feed supplies ready at hand
 - Reg Kienast and Diane Wells who donated 60 mini queen rearing nucs
 - **Grosvenor Group** who donated honey produced on the rooftop of The RISE that we turn gifted to community
-

VOLUNTEERS

Our greatest gift is our volunteers - who show up in our governance teams, as beekeepers and gardeners, seed sorters and poets, podcasters and advocates. Thank you for giving your time and skill to this work, building connection and understanding between us all.

PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

We work hard as a team to share our stories, and celebrate success together, this year included many publications and we are proud to share a few here:

BeesCene Fall 2020 Volume 36 #3 "Beekeepers of Colour in BC" featuring many of our members including Jim, Marc, Ali and Rob.

Asparagus Mag Winter 2021 Issue "Sweet Success" article featuring Horace and Ali.

2 Million Blossoms Winter 2021 Issue "Community built on Connection" article written by our team and featuring our Community Engagement Committee team.

Edible Canada "The Honey Issue" showcasing our products and programs.

Right to Food Zine Issue 25 "Harvest 2020" featuring Horace and Sarah.

UBC "Alumni Builder Award" Sarah was honoured with this award, as an alumni of UBC's Land and Food System, Global Resource Program, which is how she first came to be a part of the community in the DTES.

H4H's work of building connection is only possible because of the contributions of our community members and team, highlighted in this report, so a deep thank you must go to each of our members for their work in building a connected community, demonstrating leadership, compassionate care, and good relations with the land.



RAINDROPS

By Horace Daychief, The Bear Whisperer.

*Rain drops keep falling on my bike.
 That's all right, because rain drops can cause your bike to rust.
 That ain't good stuff, rust no good.
 Rain drops keep falling on the ground.
 That's OK because rain drops keep all the bugs, ants, worms, plants and
 especially flowers to grow and bloom.
 Rain drops keep falling in the forests of British Columbia, that's why
 Vancouver British Columbia is so beautiful.
 Rain drops keep falling every where, that's the best thing to have is rain
 drops instead of forest fires, tornados and hurricanes.
 So remember, rain drops are a really good thing.
 Don't be sad when you see rain drops.
 Be happy because rain drops are what makes the world a better place to live.
 Rain drops keep everything alive and growing.
 Keeps animals alive and kicking.
 The bees a buzzing.
 Rain drops can shut off forest fires.
 Rain drops are what our world needs some times.*



We do this work on the unceded lands and waters of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səl̓ílwəta? (Tsleil-Waututh) and Kwantlen Nations.

In making this important land acknowledgement, in respect of our host nations, we seek to ask ourselves the question: How do we build reciprocal relationships with the land, how do we connect in respectful ways, how do we seek to include all ways of knowing and being?