



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

HIVESFORHUMANITY.COM

Our vision is of social and ecological networks that are sustainable and inclusive.

Our mission is to create opportunities for connection to community, through nature, bees and the culture of the hive. We foster self-worth and the community pride through skills sharing and experiential learning, working with socially and economically vulnerable populations facing barriers to stability.

We work holding central the values of:

OPPORTUNITY:

we create low-barrier and inclusive access points for connection to community and health, built through relationships of trust and respect.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

we are responsible to our community, our environment, and our business for the long-term sustainability of our work.

JOY:

we share joy through our work, fostering pride in both individuals and community.





SUMMARY
OF
2017 -
2018
FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Every year we learn and grow together, the bees and the gardens and the people.

But what is growth and what is learning? How might we grow in health and relationship, deepening our connections to land, food and community? How might we foster understanding and the valuing all ways of knowing and being, while dismantling the traps of exclusionary, binary, stigmatising, colonial or capitalist systems that perpetuate violence in our world? How do we build a sustainable and just model in the midst of these unsustainable and unjust systems?

The past two years have been a voyage of focus for our organisation as we strived to answer these questions. In March of 2017, we got the best rejection letter we've ever received. We were asking for support for a project, and while it was a firm no on the original ask, there was an offer of support for our core work: to assess and develop our organisational capacity. Through this support, offered by Vancity Community Foundation and partnered with Propellor Advisors, we have:

1

Built our financials into detailed tools for decision making;

2

Deepened our Board of Directors to bridge gaps in skills and enrichen our perspective; and

3

Developed our Strategic Direction

This support aligned with our learnings from the Social Innovation Certificate received from SFU, which built our toolkit and encouraged us to look at the work we must do within ourselves and our places in the systems that might bind us. This led to participation in an experimental cohort of learners, supported by the McConnell Foundation, where we worked with a Belonging based consultant, Jesse Sutherland, to develop our Evaluation strategy.

All the while, supported by City of Vancouver's Greenest City Fund, we delivered access to nature and opportunities for experiential education, as well as training and work opportunities to alleviate poverty through the supportive and inclusive culture we build around the hive. We did this through beekeeping and gardening workshops at all of our partnership locations, in each place welcoming people wherever they were at.

Throughout this process, we garnered two major pieces of learning.

FIRST LESSON:

that we can honour interconnection through focus.

It is our partnerships and our people at the core of our work who make these opportunities for connection to nature possible. With the support of our partners, and working alongside our people, the bees become a vibrating, fascinating, unique opportunity to create meaningful skills training and sharing, education and work. Through beekeeping and gardening, with the intention to build cohesion in community, we pursue social and environmental justice. This interconnection is not superficial; we are a part of nature, not separate, not above, the same as we are a part of each other. We are our relationships to the land, water and sky and to the plants, animals and elements of each domain. The bees fly between, making tangible our interconnection. By caring for the bees, we, in turn, learn to care for each other and ourselves. This interconnection is ancient and powerful, and it is present, all the way through. As we focus on people and the communities we seek to serve, we find parallels to bee health, plant resilience and pollinator diversity.

SECOND LESSON:

listening to and empowering the voices of the community we seek to serve, must be centered.

The depth of generosity that exists in this community of the Downtown Eastside, the strength and resilience, the understanding and the dignity, continue to move us and inspire this work through all the challenges, changes, crises and tough days. When we meet each other in openness, honesty and vulnerability, inspiration and hope, sharing creativity, connection and joy, we are stronger. *It is in isolation that we are lost.* Isolation from each other and from nature, exclusion or marginalisation, all come from extractive systems that perceive some members and contributions as less valuable than others. In connection we are enriched. Holding a frame of bees, eating a spoonful of honey, pouring a wax candle, breathing in a garden, or learning alongside each other—these are ways we battle isolation. When we truly listen to, empower and amplify the voices and stories of the communities we serve, our work and our lives are enriched. You will find these stories throughout this report. Might we dance like the bees and share these stories on? That is our hope. And that through sharing we build awareness, empathy, understanding, and tools for action.

The learning journey continues for our organization, as we work to find the model that will support us in thriving and surviving; to keep the commitment we made to offer meaningful and sustainable opportunities, with respect and joy, for people, through the bees!

A photograph of two individuals wearing white beekeeping suits and veils. They are looking towards the left of the frame. The background shows a wooden structure, possibly a beehive or part of a garden.

PROGRAMMING REPORT

Partnership is at the heart of our organisation, it is how we **connect** to people, how we **build** opportunity, where we **create** apiaries and gardens, **offer** workshops and **foster** connection.

Our programs include:

Therapeutic Beekeeping

Connection to community through the bees, and beekeeping practiced as meditation, offering a no-barriers, inclusive, supportive, strength based and skills-sharing space.

Pollinator Gardening

We save the bees and the other pollinators by planting food for them and creating undisturbed habitat. We connect people to nature through this green work, in the heart of the city, in nooks and crannies from street-side planters and in rooftop gardens.

Mentorship Beekeeping

Training and work opportunities in beekeeping, built out of our Therapeutic Apiaries. These include public workshops, graduated courses, and one-on-one beekeeping opportunities.

BeeSpace

Our wax and honey hub where we create our products through supportive training and work opportunities that share our story and support our programming.



In partnership with Portland Hotel Community Services Society:

Hastings Folks Garden: The garden we founded our Society out of, located on the 100 block of East Hastings—a green respite, pollinator meadow and apiary location that is also home to a Sweat Lodge.

Hastings Urban Farm (HUF): This was the last year of our programming at 58 W Hastings, a site that has a rich history of community advocacy including a Tent City in the summer of 2017. We walked the pollinator meadow at the end of our season, thanking the directions, the trees and the plants, the bees and other pollinators, for offering such healing and connection during our time there.

Hugh Bird Residence: This is one of the first residences where we built an apiary, around which a garden tended by community members sprung up.

Chartrand Modular Housing: Supported by Homelessness Action Week, we helped residents to build their garden and relocated some of our pollinator meadow from HUF to this location. With support from Lush Charity Pot, we will be building an apiary here in 2019!

Alexander Street Community: With support from Lush Charity Pot, we will be building an apiary here in 2019, after supporting the residents and staff in fostering inclusive and supportive green space in their two patio gardens.

In partnership with RainCity Housing Society:

Marguerite Ford Apartments: Our apiary at this site has a view of the city across False Creek.

Budzey Building: Our single hive at this location is nestled within a rose, lavender and sedum garden.

Princess Rooms: We support a small and powerful garden at the front of this residence.

In partnership with Atira Women's Resource Society:

Sorella House for Women: Our colonies at Sorella live alongside the children's play area and community kitchen garden.

Aneki Modular Housing: Supported by Homelessness Action Week, we helped residents to build their garden and relocated some of our pollinator meadow from HUF to this location. With support from Lush Charity Pot, we will be building an apiary here in 2019!

In partnership with Lookout Society:

First Place and Yukon Transitional Housing: These locations support two healthy colonies each, connecting people to community through bees.

In partnership with BC Housing:

MacLean Park: We relocated some of our pollinator meadow from HUF to this location, and we are building a beekeeping club with young people who live in the residences.



Steeves Manor and Culloden Court: These locations support two healthy colonies each, connecting people to community through bees.

In partnership with Vancity Environmental Sustainability team and Sole Food Street Farms:

Sole Food Orchard: The apiary at this site connects staff at Vancity and Sole Food to opportunities to connect to the bees, deepening connection to environment and food systems.

In partnership with Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation:

Cathedral Square Park: Supported by the Neighbourhood Matching Fund, this program is working to foster inclusive green space, demonstrating the leadership that comes from community by offering tools, learning, training, and work opportunities.

Other partnership with non-profits, businesses and institutions across Vancouver:

Fairmont Waterfront: This partner has offered support through funding our Pollinator Corridor—the interconnected corridor of people, plants and pollinators through Vancouver—as we have developed it over the past 4 years, allowing us to share our story through our

honey, candles, and wax cloths; to contract our team to manage the Chef's garden and install a Northwest Coast garden; and to engage guests through their rooftop apiary! This is a multifaceted partnership that also shares a meal with our larger community in the DTES annually.

Woodshop Workers Cooperative: We used to buy fresh lumber to build our planters and apiaries. Now we work with this excellent Cooperative to create training and work opportunities for our community members by reclaiming wood that is considered waste, salvaging it and turning it into beautiful, sturdy and functional fabrications—Fairwood!

Carnegie Vancouver Public Library: We created a Seed Library four years ago through this partnership, and it is still a place where we share seeds and information, build connection and offer resources. Seeds—pollinator, medicinal and food—are donated, saved and offered for free.

Vancouver Police Department at their Cambie Street location: We are working with the hope that the bees can be a bridge between disparate communities, offering new pathways from relationships of respect, dignity and safety. We have been able to connect with Urban Native Youth Association to support workshops through this partnership.

Big Rock Urban Brewery: BRU has hosted an apiary in their parking lot for the past three seasons. In 2019 we will be relocating these bees into community in the DTES, and we will work to keep our pollinator garden and advocacy connection with this business, which has created meaningful opportunities with their support over the years.

LUSH Cosmetics: In 2017, we had the opportunity to maintain an apiary out by the Fraser River, hosting workshops for LUSH staff and creating opportunities for work and training for our beekeepers and gardeners. In 2018, we moved this apiary to the Italian Cultural Centre (ICC) where we continued in partnership with LUSH and their teams.

Italian Cultural Centre: Working out of this community centre has created opportunities for continued connection to Fresh Roots farms and the wider community that accesses programming at ICC.

Dunbar Community Centre: We have been working to build a beekeeping program at Dunbar, and this year the Dunbar Beekeeper's Association was founded with the mission to steward the bees and the apiary, which has moved from the rooftop to a beautiful new enclosure at the front of the centre.

Science World: We manage the health of the rooftop bees at this location, building opportunities for education and connection through the beautiful hollow-tree-style Observation Hive.

Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Association: We work to maintain planters painted

by artists and filled with plants and trees to green and beautify the streets of Hastings.

Illicit Theatre: We supported the Illicit Theatre Production in 2018, and what an incredible, moving, profound, inspirational, necessary piece of work, seeking to transform how we think about people who use drugs and how we might respond to this continuing fentanyl poisoning crisis that is taking so many lives through preventable overdoses.

SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement: We are proud to have the backing of this office over the past two years, supporting our work on Community Ethics in Cultural Production—a conversation rooted in lived experience in the DTES of how we might build reciprocal relationships and ensure we are empowering informed consent when we engage in art, journalism, research, volunteerism, tourism or other forms of production.

UBC Learning Exchange: We have worked to engage participants from this community space in building access to nature, sharing in celebration of community in the DTES. We have also been working on the Community Ethics in Cultural Production with their community too, linking back to the University to forward and deepen the reach of this conversation.

UBC Pacific Centre for Isotopic and Geochemical Research (PCIGR): We have been sharing samples of our honey with this research group over the past five years and have found that our honey is safe and that it can be used as an indicator of patterns of pollution in our city.



**BY
THE
NUMBERS:**

19

**THERAPEUTIC
APIARIES
IN VANCOUVER**

with associated community programming

3

**COUNTRYSIDE
APIARIES**

*honey production, research,
pollination, queen rearing*

250

**HONEY BEE
COLONIES
TOTAL**

2017 2018

100 147

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

through partnerships and services

with **575** PARTICIPANTS

with **779** PARTICIPANTS

3780 lb 3900 lb

HONEY EXTRACTED

in small batches to celebrate unique neighbourhood profiles

\$42,087 \$48,774

PAID TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS

in skills training and work spectrum over all projects

40 32

TONNES

TONNES

WOOD SALVAGED

with Woodshop Workers Cooperative

2000 2500

SEED PACKAGES DISTRIBUTED

at DTES Seed Library

24 26

GREEN SPACES MAINTAINED

planters to full gardens, including one at each apiary

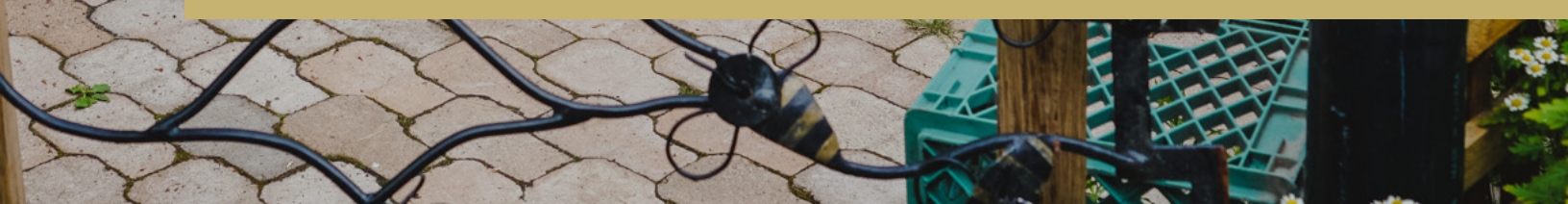
Over the course of our 2018 season, at the close of each workshop, we asked participants to share one word that summed up the experience for them of working with the bees, gardens and honey. We collected those words to show the collaborative story we built together over the year.





We met with our participants at Bee Space at the end of 2018, as we do every year, to ask what the impact of our programs was for them, how we might improve, what ideas they might have for learning and sharing and what the meaning of it all is to them.

Here are some of the thoughts they shared:





"I'm so proud of the work we've done together. I'm very thankful to have been part of the work—to have met all of the different people and personalities"

"...reinforce the learning to teach others and give back to the community—the young people, young mothers, dads, and little kids—pulling carrots right from the soil—I want to give that to people. Even though my body is aging I still want to feel helpful to the community"

"...when you look at the streets they can be scuzzy, but even just looking at the garden it's peaceful, serene, pleasant, calming—reminds people of more pleasant times. It inspires fresh ideas and feelings—calming—whether to work or to wander."

"It makes me prouder of myself—being a part of the improvement rather than the destruction. Feeling worthy of being looked up to. I feel good when I'm in it—the actual garden. And when it comes up outside of the garden. Out on the streets it's still everyone scrambling for a buck. But the garden is a source of serenity, an escape. And when I come out I'm in a better mood."

"Picks my spirit up. Makes me feel good. Bringing things to life and maintaining it. Now I can go apply for landscaping work—got a bit of the know how."

"I see people looking at us and not labelling us, seeing we do work, we take care, I'm seeing a lot of that in the gardens. We are not "bum people"—we do work. People's faces when they see the improvements we are making—they look twice."



“I’m not as violent as I used to be. The bees calm me down. That’s the truth. ”

“It’s hard to change this community—but this option might change their lives—to work with the bees, it changed mine.”

“This is my way of putting back into the community that I live in. You gotta give, not just take.”

“I have a purpose when I get up in the morning—something for the community, learning new things and building creativity.”

“While we are here we don’t do things that are bad for our body, and we are more open to communicate. We learn to accept people for who they are—and that comes out—we learn to stop judging people. While I’m here I’m not mad at myself.”


“I am getting to know so many people through it—I get hugs all the time! On the street, on my way home—10 hugs!”

“When I started working I had a big habit—I was smoking crack quite a bit. It keeps me clean when I’m working, keeps me away from that shit. Even my doctor was impressed. And I gained weight—I was too small.”

“The people —they see, they know—they enjoy our work, they see it and compliment it as they pass by. Elders, they thank us. It feels good, I love it. They even bring me a coffee and a muffin. That’s how I know they care and we deserve it.”

**FINANCIAL
SUMMARY**





Every year, we work to make our financials a better tool for understanding our work. This year we learned some big lessons and took some risks for growth, depth and connection.

We are celebrating a successful year in 2018, with improved cash in hand, diversified revenue, new booking by Glasshouse, and a reinvigorated Board of Directors. We also left behind two projects—our old Bee Space at 580 Powell and our Hastings Urban Farm at 58 W Hastings—in which we had invested time, assets and love. We have recognized disposal of assets in our financial statements, but the investments in our community's experience, self-worth, and community pride live on. No additional asset disposal is planned, and our revenue diversification committee continues to nurture growth in our services, products, events and workshops. Our outlook and forecast are positive as we write this; as spring emerges and we get back into our hives and gardens.

You can support us through:

PURCHASING OUR PRODUCTS:

Neighbourhood Honey, Beeswax Candles, Natural Self-Care.

PURCHASING OUR SERVICES:

Therapeutic Beekeeping programming for community engagement; Beekeeping Workshops for connection to nature, team building, social responsibility; Pollinator Gardening for your business's green spaces.

DONATING / SPONSORSHIP:

Your donations support our programming and make meaningful opportunities possible for people and pollinators in the city.

Sponsorship of hives is available annually: supporting workshops and training, and sharing in the story and experience of the hives you support.

Our board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers who support the vision of the society and keep our activities aligned with our mandate. We are deeply grateful to them for their hard work, sharing their skills and experience, and supporting our communities.

Chair of the Board: **Kristyna Vogel**

Treasurer: **Natalie Cushing**

Secretary and Chair of the Community Engagement Committee: **Cait Hurley**

Member and Chair of the Revenue Diversification Committee: **Sheri Weichel**

Member: **Shelley Bolton**

Member: **Paul Van Westendorp**

Chief Executive: **Sarah Common**

2018 YEAR END SUMMARY

INCOME	
Earned Income	
Services	170,990.09
Sales	135,347.22
Other Earned Revenue	3.00
Earned Income	306,340.31
Grants	166,826.00
Donations	24,777.26
Other Revenue	6,259.92
Total Income	504,203.49
Total Cogs	51,631.30
Gross Profit	452,572.19
EXPENSE	
Compensation & Benefits	320,014.75
Human Resources	52,038.02
Office	42,679.73
Capital Expense	48,360.37
Communications	14,886.19
General	8,087.84
Total Expense	486,066.90
Net Income	(33,494.71)

> 61%

of revenue generated through
SERVICES AND SALES

> 38%

of revenue generated through
GRANTS AND DONATIONS

> 13%

of gross profit invested into
SKILLS TRAINING HONOURARIA
and PAID WORK OPPORTUNITIES

2018 YEAR END BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Banks	7,699.25
Petty Cash	109.30
Total Chequing/Savings	7,808.55
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	35,935.10
Total Accounts Receivable	35,935.10
Total Current Assets	43,743.65
Fixed Assets	
Office Equipment	1,066.22
Acc Amort F&E	(912.07)
Equipment	37,416.67
Acc Amort Equipment	(19,571.69)
Computers	3700.06
Accum. Amortization - Computers	(2,035.03)
Total Fixed Assets	19,664.16
Total Assets	63,407.81
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Visa Desjardins	75.87
Total Credit Cards	75.87
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	732.96
Accrued Vacation Payable	1,446.44
GST/HST Payable	4,100.75
Total Other Current Liabilities	6,280.15
Total Current Liabilities	6,356.02
Long Term Liabilities	
Loans	76,451.59
Total Long Term Liabilities	76,451.59
Total Liabilities	82,807.61
Equity	
Retained Earnings	14,094.91
Net Income	(33,494.71)
Total Equity	(19,399.80)
Total Liabilities and Equity	63,407.81

NEW HORIZONS

*Hives for Humanity has opened my eyes to see the world more differently (in a good way!).
It starts with the bees.*

They make the best honey of all.

It's the best thing ever to see bees flying and following each other into the hive.

It's amazing to see close-up.

The bees are harmless (don't provoke them please!).

I want to learn more about bees.

Hives for Humanity has moved to a new building.

A place where I will learn more about bees and staying out of trouble.

With its new location, Hives for Humanity it's not a hard place to find.

It's a place to learn a lot of things, to connect to people from different nations.

A nice place to sit down and relax, have coffee or tea.

Winter or Summer, there's always something to be done.

The workshop is a great place to work with tools to build the hives' home.

Making and preparing the honey is done here too in the basement of the new location.

Hives for Humanity is a place to work, meet people, respect each other.

It's a great place to get involved with the community.

THE BEAR WHISPERER

FEBRUARY 26, 2019



We acknowledge that we are working, gardening, beekeeping and fostering connection to land and community, on the unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səl̓ílwətaʔ (Tseil-Watuth) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations of the Coast Salish peoples.

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