

File No.: 04-1000-20-2025-360

November 6, 2025

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the “Act”)**

I am responding to your request of June 12, 2025 under the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*** for:

Record of the 5-year licence agreement between the Park Board and Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation (VUFFF) (including any subsequent amendment(s)) to operate the community garden at Burrard View Park that was initiated by Park Commissioner approval on March 30, 2022. Date range: March 30, 2022 to June 11, 2025.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed (blacked out) under s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download this section here: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00.

Under Part 5 of the Act, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (2025-360); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,

Kevin Tuerlings, FOI Case Manager, for

[Signed by Kevin Tuerlings]

**Cobi Falconer, MAS, MLIS, CIPP/C
Director, Access to Information & Privacy**

If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. You may also contact 3-1-1 (604-873-7000) if you require accommodation or do not have access to email.

Encl. (Response Package)

:kt

**VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION
NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND**

**THIS AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is made as of June 1st, 2024
Between**

**City of Vancouver, as represented by its Board of Parks and Recreation (the "Park
Board")**

And

Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society (the "Organization")

This Agreement is to formalize a commitment by the Park Board to fund "Sacred Fire Project" (the "Project") and a commitment by the Organization to complete the Project.

The Park Board and the Organization agree as follows:

I. Reimbursement and Project Reporting

- A. The Park Board shall pay the Organization allowable costs as identified in this Agreement not to exceed \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars). The Neighbourhood Matching Fund Coordinator must approve any variances.
- B. The Organization must complete the Project in accordance with Appendix 1 to this Agreement. The Neighbourhood Matching Fund Coordinator must approve any variances. The Organization must notify the Park Board upon the completion of the Project and provide a "Project Completion Form" to the Park Board as proof of the completion. The Organization must complete all Project Completion Forms, and provide photo documentation and a report outlining expenses and matching donations (in-kind donations, volunteer hours, and funds raised) to the Park Board.
 - i. The Organization must retain receipts for all allowable costs, track volunteer hours and expenditures, and provide access to all such documentation to the Park Board or its representative upon request.
 - ii. Upon completion of the Project, the Organization must hold and fund a celebration of the Project. The Organization must notify the Park Board no later than 14 days prior to the event so that Park Board Commissioners and staff may attend. The notification must indicate whether there is a request for a Commissioner to speak at the event.
 - iii. The Organization must document the before, during, and after of the Project with photographs of no fewer than 6 megapixels and provide the photographs to the Park Board upon completion of the Project. Signed release forms must accompany any photos containing identifiable individuals.

- C. A Park Board representative may inspect the completed Project for compliance with this Agreement. The Organization agrees to repay the amounts it received under this Agreement if the Park Board, in its sole discretion, determines that the Organization did not comply with its obligations described in this Agreement.
- D. Should the Organization not complete the Project or in any way fail to comply with its obligations under this Agreement, the Organization agrees to return the funds it received under this Agreement no later than five days after it receives a notice from the Park Board.
- E. The Project must acknowledge the Neighbourhood Matching Fund at the Project location by using the Neighbourhood Matching Fund logo or the wording "This Project has been supported through the Neighbourhood Matching Fund of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation."

II. Contact Persons

Written communication between the Park Board and the Organization will occur through the following individuals:

Attn: Renee Redwood
545 N Slocan Street
eaglesinspirit@gmail.com

Attn: NMF Coordinator
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
2099 Beach Ave., Vancouver, BC V6G 1Z4
nmf@vancouver.ca

or such other person as the Park Board may advise.

III. Third Party General Liability Insurance

The Organization shall furnish to the Park Board, on a City of Vancouver (the "**City**") Certificate of Insurance (attached), evidence of third party general liability insurance that indemnifies and protects the Organization and its respective officers, officials, employees, servants and agents against all claims for any loss, damage, injury or death to any person or persons and for damage to any public or private property in the course of implementing, running or completing the Project. Such policy shall be for at least the principal amount of a combined single limit of **\$2,000,000** per occurrence, personal injury and/or property damage liability and a deductible of not more than **\$5,000.00** on terms acceptable to the City's Director of Risk Management. Such insurance shall include the Park Board and the City as an additional insured, will contain a cross-liability clause in favour of the City and the Park Board and shall not be reduced or canceled without 30 days written notice to the Park Board.

IV. Indemnity

The Organization indemnifies, defends, and holds harmless the City and its officials, officers, employees and agents ("City Personnel"), and the Park Board and its officials, officers, employees and agents (the "Park Board Personnel") from all liabilities, costs, injuries, losses, damages and expenses, including from any complaints, demands, claims,

actions, suits, judgments, and orders brought by third parties, arising from or in connection with the Project or this Agreement.

V. WorkSafeBC

The Organization must procure, carry and pay for full WorkSafeBC coverage, as required by law, for any of the Organization's officials, officers, employees, agents, and personnel engaged in or upon any work or service that is the subject of this Agreement.

VI. Project Maintenance

The Park Board is not obligated to assume any maintenance or replacement responsibilities for the Project. Any works generated, produced, or installed by the Project (the "Work") must be removed if it deteriorates or becomes a safety hazard. The Organization is responsible for costs associated with maintenance, cleaning and repair of the Work.

VII. Removal of Project

The Organization is responsible for identifying the need to remove the Work at the appropriate time, and to notify both the appropriate entity on whose property the Project is located, as well as the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Coordinator. Should the Organization fail to remove the Work, the Park Board will remove the Work at the Organization's expense.

VIII. Permit Requirements and City Department Approvals

Prior to proceeding with construction of the Project, the Organization shall furnish to the Park Board copies of all appropriate City permits and approvals.

IX. Title to Property Acquired and Works Produced

The ownership of property purchased by, or constructed with the Neighbourhood Matching Funds shall rest with the entity on whose property the Work is located.

X. Copyright and Waiver of Moral Rights

A. Copyright

Upon completion of the Work, the Organization must require the participating artist(s) and project advisor(s) deliver a fully executed Assignment of Joint Copyright to the Park Board. The artist(s), project advisor(s), Organization, Park Board and City shall jointly hold the worldwide copyright in the Work. (Appendix 2)

B. Waiver of Moral Rights

The Organization must ensure that the artist(s) and project advisor(s) waive all moral rights in respect of the Work, including any photographic documentation. The Organization agrees that the Park Board or the City may:

- (a) alter the site of the Work (the "Site");
- (b) replace, substitute or remove any vegetation on the Site, including any vegetation forming part of the Work;
- (c) repair and maintain the Work;

- (d) relocate the Work or any portion thereof to another location;
- (e) remove the Work;
- (f) alter the Work;
- (g) use the Site for any City or Park Board purpose; or
- (h) destroy the Work.

XI. Published Materials

- A. The Park Board and the City have unrestricted authority to publish, disclose, distribute and otherwise use, in whole or in part, any reports, data, or other materials prepared under this Agreement.

All finished or unfinished documents and written materials prepared by the Organization with funds provided under this Agreement shall be available for inspection and duplication by the Park Board and the City.

- B. Any document prepared by the Organization that is or will be made available to the public, unless specifically exempted, shall contain the following disclaimer:

This document has been funded in part by the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Program of the Vancouver Park Board. The information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the policies of the Park Board. The Park Board does not warrant the accuracy of any of the information contained in this document.

XII. Changes

Either party may request changes to this Agreement. No modification of this Agreement is effective unless it is in writing and signed by all the parties.

XIII. Compliance with Agreement and Termination

Failure to fulfill the terms of this Agreement may result in the requirement to repay the full funding amount to the Park Board and/or removal of the Work.

This Agreement may be terminated by the Park Board upon seven (7) days' notice to the Organization, in the event that the Project is permanently abandoned.

XIV. No Assignment

The Organization will not assign or subcontract, either directly or indirectly, this Agreement or any right or obligation of the Organization under this Contract, without the prior written consent of the Park Board, which consent may be arbitrarily withheld. No assignment or subcontract, whether consented to or not, relieves the Organization from any obligations under this Agreement.

XV. Governing Law

This Agreement will be governed by the laws of British Columbia.

XVI. Accessibility

The Organization, in designing and installing the Work, must consider accessibility by people with disabilities.

The parties have duly executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

EAGLES INSPIRIT PROTECTING INDIGENOUS FATHERS SOCIETY

Sarah Anne Mitchell
Signature



Signature

Sarah-Anne Mitchell Treasurer
Print Name and Title

Kathleen Abrahams Treasurer
Print Name and Title

CITY OF VANCOUVER, as represented by its BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

SJ
Signature

Signature

Steve Jackson, General Manager
Print Name and Title

Print Name and Title

APPENDIX 1
NMF APPLICATION



Neighbourhood Matching Fund Application - 2024

Neighbourhood Matching Fund Application

Please provide all of the necessary information requested after carefully reviewing the guidelines included above.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- a. Project Name: Sacred Fire Project
- b. Sponsoring Organization's name & neighbourhood: Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society
- c. Sponsoring Organization not-for-profit number: S00079438
- d. Project location: Burrardview Park, Vancouver, BC.
- e. Please provide a one sentence description of your project: Permanent fire pit and food forest area in the southern end of Burrardview Park in east Vancouver.
- f. Project Contact: Renee Redwood
Email: eaglesinspirit@gmail.com Phone: 6043964450
- g. Contact at Sponsoring Organisation (if different from Project Contact).
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Sponsor Organization Mailing Address: 545 N Slocan Street

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (max 200 words)

- What activities will your group undertake?
- What do you hope to accomplish?
- What is the neighbourhood need this project addresses?
- What is the anticipated lifetime of the project?

Note: Projects must enhance public space or expand green space and result in a physical lasting legacy for at least two years. Celebrations, parades, performances, and so on, are only eligible if they are documented (example: requires videography, photography, or written reflections to be shared afterwards) and are freely accessible to the public digitally for at least two years after completion.

For the Sacred Fire Project, we plan to dig a permanent fire pit while VUFFF is planting a food forest in the same area. Logs will be arranged around the fire pit area for seating, and we plan to use the logs as an opportunity to offer a carving program or mentorship that will allow participants to learn about First Nations culture while adorning the park with artistically enriching displays. VUFFF and Eagles Inspirit are excited to be sharing the site and weaving culture into the creation process, as we are also getting a plot within the food forest VUFF has planned. Eagles Inspirit wants to plant traditional medicines and herbs for offerings and ceremonies in our future community endeavours. This project will not only provide a sacred space for the community, but the permanent fire pit can be a place for community members to come together. The fire pit will complement the park's attraction as it already offers gravel paths, a park, a dog area, a public washroom, and a soccer field area. The lifetime of this project will be permanent.

2. LOCATION: Where will the project take place? (max 50 words)

Your project must be located on land stewarded by the Park Board or other public land trustee within Vancouver's city limits (for example: City of Vancouver, Vancouver Public Library, or Vancouver School Board).

Describe where the proposed project is located: The project will be taking place in the southern part of Burrardview Park in east Vancouver, BC.

• Acknowledging Host Nations (max 250 words)

This project is taking place on unceded territories. What is your relationship to and in what ways are you acknowledging Host Nations, xʷməθkʷəy̕əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh)?

We are connected to the host nation through Fabian Williams (a.k.a. "Cedar Man"), who is a well-known and highly respected Elder and Knowledge Keeper of the Tsliel-Watuuth Nation (səlilwətaɬ /Selilwitulh). Following proper protocols, we met personally with Mr. Williams, with an offering of tobacco and gifts as a way of making the nation aware of our intentions with the land at Burrardview Park. By extending meaningful support by nurturing our relationship with Tsleil-

Waututh Nation, our hope is that some form of reconciliation within the land and community will take place medicines will be available, and what the land means to their nation.

3. PARTICIPATION (max 250 words)

- Who will lead the project?
- Who will participate in the project (Estimated number of participants)?
- How will you determine accessibility needs of participants and work to make your project accessible? (*This may include mobility barriers, language barriers, and so on*)
- How will you work with and involve community members in all stages of this project? *Projects must encourage community participation in the project process and allow new participants to join at any stage. Examples of stages include planning or design meetings, workshops, work parties, etc.*
- How will you reach out to involve a diverse range of community members including equity deserving individuals and groups? *Examples of outreach efforts to your community include flyers, posters, connecting with the Business Improvement Association or local schools.*

The lead of this project will be Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society in partnership with the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation. Our portion of the project is the fire pit area, and VUFFF will be doing all the planting and landscaping of the area during the digging/creation. We plan on creating posters/flyers that will keep local community members and our donors aware and updated on when events and meetings will take place. We want to initiate as many volunteers as possible before the project's start to ensure that our project has a meaningful impact on whoever decides to come and help. We want to make this a series of family-friendly events so that all can come to enjoy it when we start. We will create reels/do social media shout-outs to make the online audience aware as well of our upcoming plans regarding the project. We do have some fun in-kind donations set aside to do some raffles and giveaways. We will send our event invite on Facebook to groups that would be interested in attending the event. Our project will be from 50-100 people. The Sacred Fire's site already boasts wheelchair accessibility and public bathrooms.

4. PARTNERS (max 250 words)

- What partners (community groups, artists, environmental consultants, businesses, etc.) will you work with?
- How will the partners be involved with this project?
- Please give examples of the experience and knowledge your partners bring to the project that you feel will have a positive impact on this work.
If partnering with a professional artist or consultant, please attach a short Bio and/or CV
- Does the proposed project involve working with Indigenous artists, cultural practitioners and communities? If yes, please discuss:
 - How will you respect the specific cultural protocols relevant to your collaborations and create an environment of cultural safety?

Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society is an Indigenous women-led not-for-profit organization that is in official partnership with the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation (VUFFF) for this project. VUFFF's Marie-Pierre Bilodeau is VUFF's Operations Co-ordinator. Marie-Pierre studied permaculture at Seven Ravens Permaculture Academy on Salt Spring Island and her hands-on training was done in East Africa. She is our main contact for this collaboration. VUFFF already has a committed group of volunteers that will be contributing to the project in terms of labour and man hours for the build/dig of the site. We also have our Indigenous Cultural Wellness Worker, David Arnault, from the Community Builders organization to help us connect to the cultural aspects of the process of this project. We will be carving the logs that will enclose the space as seating arrangements land offerings, and acknowledgements. James Hamelin, our enlisted Fire Keeper, who has a strong relationship with the Vancouver Fire Department, has already agreed to attend our Sacred Fire when we officially open the space to the public. Fabian Williams, the elder from the Tsliel-Watuth Nation, is contributing to the ceremony, and prayer, and offering some of their teachings. The aim is to work alongside VUFFF by hosting workshops and bridging the gap between nations and community relations. Eagles Inspirit plans on holding an opening ceremony when the project is completed to welcome everyone to honour all who contributed their time, efforts, and cultural knowledge to this legacy.

5. BENEFITS (max 150 words)

- How will this project build neighbourhood connections?
- How will this project creatively enhance public space in parks or in Community Centres and the neighbourhood?

This project has already created new community relationships during the designing and planning phase, as we have gotten to know local business owners during our fundraising efforts. We have strengthened our relationship with VUFFF, and our new connections with Community Builders and the local community will only grow

stronger during the whole process from start to finish of this project. When the project is complete, Burrardview Park will have a permanent fire pit area for the public to enjoy. The cultural knowledge and artistic talent that will go into the project will add an aesthetically pleasing component to the park that will remain on display for years to come. Our society also plans to use the Sacred Fire as a cultural focal point for teaching, healing, learning and ceremony

6. LETTERS OF SUPPORT x 3

Please include at least:

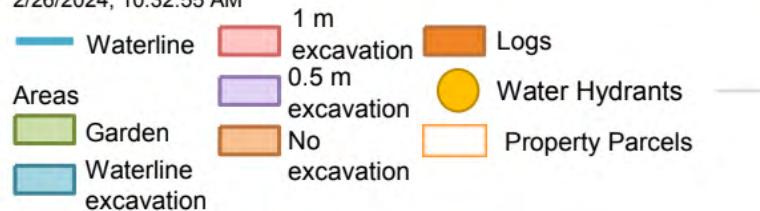
- **ONE letter** that demonstrates local support for your proposed project from a registered not-for-profit organization in Vancouver (e.g. local community centre or neighbourhood house)
 - If the project application is hosted by a not-for-profit organization who is not leading the proposed project, please include **one letter** of support from that organization
- **TWO letters** from neighbourhood groups or residents living near the proposed site or local businesses.
 - Note: this can also be an informal email expressing a community member's support of the project
 - Letters of support do not need to be on a formal letterhead but ideally include a diversity of neighbours and community members

Please note that applications may be granted funding pending demonstrated community support through a consultation process before proceeding with their project (details of the community consultation process on page 2)

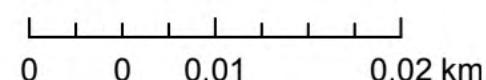
Burrard View Food Forest Design 2024



2/26/2024, 10:32:55 AM



Scale: 1:564





WE WELCOME YOU IN TO GROW WITH US, LEARN ALONGSIDE US, AND TOGETHER CREATE FOOD JUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

We work together on this shared land hosted by the S̱kwxwú7mesh, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm and sélilwətaʔɬ Nations

Partners include: Kiwassa NH, Aboriginal Mothers Centre, Hastings Community Centre Food & Gardens Program and many more!

Join us as a member, volunteer, facilitator, supporter!
All levels of experience welcome and encouraged!

Knowledge sharers: Lori Snyder, Leona Brown, Laura Cisneros and community members like you!

- Events
- Workshops
- Gatherings
- Gardening
- Community
- Free

Projects: Chéhchenstway Indigenous Food Forest in Oxford Park, Hastings-Kamloops Plaza Indigenous Food Forest, and Fieldhouse Space in Burrard View Park

Contact us!
www.vufff.org
info@vufff.org

@VancouverUrbanFoodForestFoundation

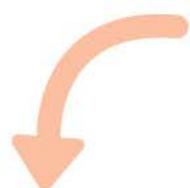
Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation

Intergenerational cross-cultural land-based knowledge-sharing community and gathering spaces

A FOOD FOREST is a biodiverse GARDEN inspired by natural forest ecosystems. Filled with INDIGENOUS and food producing trees, shrubs, herbs, people pollinator meadows and vegetables, it becomes a vibrant COMMUNITY hub and gathering space.



WHO ARE WE? HOW MIGHT FOOD AND LAND CONNECT US TO EACH OTHER?



VUFFF //

We are a registered non-profit and food justice initiative working to address structural inequality through land-based learning, Indigenous foodways, partnerships and advocacy.



COMMUNITY //

We celebrate the complex relationship between the life of soil, the diversity of plants, and the health of our human and animal friends.



MISSION //

To create inclusive community gathering spaces while sharing harvests and knowledge, collectively gardening, being guided by Indigenous ways of knowing, prioritizing marginalized voices and creating a hub for mutual aid.



VISION //

We believe that access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food is not only possible for everyone in our city, it is necessary in order for us to grow into the future our world deserves.





NMF Spring 2023 Application Project Timelines & Budget

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Please note that projects should be completed within **two years of funding approval**. If you have not reached the stage of planning a schedule yet, then a proposed one is acceptable as these schedules are considered subject to change.

Community Outreach Activities (to inform public and build participation)	Month/Year
<i>Example: posters, information sessions etc.</i>	<i>March – September 2023</i>
NVIT Career Fair - Brochure/Flyers designed/printed/distributed - networking	April 4 th , 2024
Meet with VUFFF/Community Builders to discuss project collaboration/participation	April 10 th , 2024
Met with Cedar Man (Elder) for project cultural guidance	April 10 th , 2024
Flyer Distribution/Fundraising (5 hrs.)(*3)	April 17 th , 2024
Flyer Distribution (Driving/walking) (5 hrs.)(*3)	April 22 nd , 2024
Face to Face In-Kind Donation Fundraising (5 hrs.)(*3)	April 23 rd , 2024
Project Implementation Activities	
<i>Example: Work Party with volunteers</i>	<i>October 2023</i>
Meeting with VUFFF/Community Builders to discuss dig day	*To be determined
Create Flyers for an event that initiates volunteers for Dig Day	*To be determined
Obtain masonry items needed. (stones/bricks for inlay of fire pit) Sh. Wheelbarrow, Gloves, etc.	*To be determined
Create a sign-making workshop for plant plot	*To be determined
Make new posters for Dig Day	
Planning meeting for ceremony/land acknowledgment	

NOTE:
Outreach activities already completed are not included in volunteer hour match



**Please note that Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society is aware that the outreach activities that have taken place already will not be included in the matching fund wanted to list the outreach hours to show our efforts thus far

MAINTENANCE PLAN (max 100 words)

Please describe a plan to maintain the project created for future years.

Describe the long-term management plan of the site and complete the timeline below for the project maintenance throughout the seasons/years ahead.

YEAR	STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES
Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Weekly removal of debris and garbage from the garden by garden clean-up committeeMaintain and update your website that hosts your documented project
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regular upkeep and garbage cleaning as needed on an ongoing basisCreate a community event so community members can contribute to tending and care for the areaTake and keep updated photos on Eagles Inspirit's social media account for community awareness and engagement regarding the new areaSigns that display medicine names and area history
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Check the integrity of logs and see if new ones are neededContinue regular walk-throughs of the area to ensure area is well-kept and respected.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Display signs that educate the public on the culture woven into the project, with suggestions of ways to participate in the care of the land
Year 3 and beyond	

1. NMF BUDGET INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

A. EXPENSES

- Include all items and services that you need in order to complete your project.
- Professional fees for consultants or practitioners (e.g. lead artist, botanist, educator, etc.)
- Please note that a Project Coordinator/Administration fee cannot exceed 10% of the requested funds.
- With pre-approval, small honoraria can be budgeted in the project expenses to address barriers to participation e.g. transit, child care.
- If your organization does not already have third party liability insurance, you will need to purchase coverage (minimum \$2 million per occurrence). This is an expense that can be included in your budget. The same applies to the required COV business license for not-for-profit organizations.
- All original receipts for expenditures must be retained in case of audit and be made available to Park Board staff upon request.

B. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS – Your MATCH must be equal to or greater than your REQUEST. The NMF will match community contributions of volunteer labour, in-kind supplies and services donated and/or other funds raised.

- **VOLUNTEER LABOUR**
 - a. Volunteer labour can be counted for anyone who will be *actively* participating in the project without pay, including participating community members. Volunteer labour is valued at \$24.08/hour, the current living wage in Metro Vancouver.
http://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/what_is_living_wage
 - b. Please list the estimated total hours of all volunteers and their value. Examples of volunteer labour include planning and/or design meetings, workshops and work parties or other meetings or sessions when neighbours and others involved formally come together to discuss or work on the project
 - c. ***Please Note: Only volunteer hours completed after funding is awarded and a contract is signed are eligible.***
- **IN-KIND DONATIONS**

These may include materials, supplies and professional fees (i.e. donated landscape services by a professional, individual or firm). Please value any donated professional services or materials at a fair market value.
- **CASH SUPPORT**

Please list all sources of cash support, including all fundraising efforts, business sources, individual donations, grants or other funding. If the applicant has secured **other city funding**, the max amount of total city and Park Board funding is \$10,000.00.

C. NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND REQUEST (Maximum 50% of overall project budget)

- a. Your request amount **cannot exceed \$10,000 and you cannot request more than the total of Your Expenses**
- b. Funds will not be granted for resources already purchased prior to confirmed funding



PROJECT BUDGET

Description of Project Expenses:	Amount
Chest for firewood	\$1,000.00
Sacred Fire Pit Stone Work; Masonry Items/brick	\$2,000.00
Sacred medicines for ceremony (i.e.; tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, cedar)	\$300.00
Carver/Artist for benches or a carving mentorship for participants (and carving tools/sets)	\$1000
Painter/Artist for benches + artist fee	\$500
Cedar Man—Talking Circle (fee) Fire Keeper (fee)	\$2000
Third-party Insurance	\$500
Project Coordinator/Administrator Fees: (Maximum 10% of NMF ask):	\$2000
Food/Honararia	\$700
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$10,000

Description of your matching community contributions:	I. Value of In-Kind Donations	II. Value of Volunteer Time	III. Value of Other Cash Support	Secured or Pending?
TD Canada Bank-cash donation			\$200.00	secured
Logs from Parks Board	\$2000.00			secured
Fabric - OSF	\$100.00			secured
Jam Florist	\$60.00			secured
VUFFF volunteers for break ground/dig day		\$2500.00		pending
Flyer Design/planning meetings		\$1000.00		secured
Fundraising/planning		\$1225.53		secured
Laughing Bean Coffee Co.	\$50.00			secured
The Goods	\$40.00			secured
Black Rider Tattoo			\$200.00	secured
s.22(1) (ceremonial blanket donation/weaved headband)	\$600.00			secured
Neighborhood Small Grant (Indigenous Grant)			\$500.00	pending



Volunteer hours (Community members, VUFFF, Community Builders, Eagles Inspirit)		\$1208.05		
Rio Friendly Meats	\$316.42			
TOTAL MATCH:	\$3166.42	\$5933.58	\$900.00	\$

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND REQUEST:
(Maximum 50% of your total expenses + match)

\$ 10,000.00



Vancouver
Urban
Food
Forest
Foundation

December 18th, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society Funding Application

Our organization has been working with Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society since its inception and our members have been working together with their members for over a year now through other organizations. In this time, we have developed a trusting and meaningful relationship with them and fully support their efforts.

I am writing this letter to endorse the grant proposal submitted by Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Father's Society. This organization is a unique opportunity to fill a gap in services that hardly exist for Indigenous fathers.

The Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society is an Indigenous women-led society, working toward building bridges, filling in gaps, and focusing on Indigenous Fathers in the Metro Vancouver area. They are women with lived experience who represent the community they serve.

The services and programs of Eagles Inspirit is a welcoming journey of healing for Indigenous Fathers in Metro Vancouver. Their programming uplifts and empowers Indigenous fathers and in turn, the fathers not only benefit, but the children benefit, the families benefits and the whole community benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MPB".

Marie-Pierre Bilodeau
Operations Coordinator

Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation
545 North Slocan Street
Vancouver BC V5K 3M6
604.314.8018

December 16, 2023

Dear Funding Agency:

Re: Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Father's Society Funding Application

I am writing this letter to strongly endorse the grant proposal submitted by Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society. I am aware of the work that the society has been doing and have collaborated with community organizations such as the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation. The Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers' Society is an Indigenous women-led society, working toward building bridges, filling in gaps, and focusing on Indigenous fathers in the Metro Vancouver area. The services and programs for Indigenous Father's is a welcoming journey of healing for Indigenous Father's in Metro Vancouver. The concept of Indigenous women leading the way with this project is a role that is part of who we are as Indigenous people. We are thankful that the indigenous women of this society took that role and created a healing process that will provide safe space for Indigenous Father's. In turn, the father's benefit, the children benefit, the family benefits and so does the greater community.

Sincerely,

[via email]

Deborah Baker
Director of Community Programs
VanCity Community Foundation
312 Main Street
Vancouver, BC

236-308-2707 mobile
deborah_baker@vancity.com email



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Vancouver City Savings Credit Union





Aboriginal Mother Centre Society
2019 Dundas St
Vancouver, BC V5L 1J5

April 26, 2024

To whom it may concern:

The goal of Aboriginal Mother Centre Society is to strengthen Indigenous families, especially mothers and their children. To that end, we offer transitional housing, an Aboriginal Head Start daycare, housing outreach, and opportunities for cultural connection to the community.

We are excited to hear about the Sacred Fire Project at Burrardview Park! Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation has been collaborating with AMCS for several years while their vision for the indigenous food forest in Burrard View Park has come together. The partnership with Eagles in Spirit now adds an exciting dimension of opportunities for healing and cultural connection to our community.

AMCS strongly supports Eagles in Spirit's goal of making ceremony so closely accessible to the many indigenous community members who live in the neighbourhood. We anticipate that the Sacred Fire will become a gathering place for indigenous folks to experience ceremony and healing and provide an opportunity for non-indigenous community members to learn about culture and reconciliation in a practical way.

Eagles In Spirit aims to beautify the space with traditional art, which not only supports local indigenous artists, but also makes the space welcoming to everyone.

We cannot wait to see this garden space and the good work that is done there!

All my relations,

Sarah Cushman
Manager, Community Engagement
Aboriginal Mother Centre Society
sarah.c@aboriginalmothercentre.ca

**VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION
NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND**

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (the Agreement)

Between

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (the “Park Board”)

and

Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation (the “Organization”)

This Agreement is to formalize a commitment by the Park Board to fund Medicine Wheel Mosaic (the “Project”) and a commitment by the Organization to complete the Project.

The Park Board and the Organization agree as follows:

I. Reimbursement and Project Reporting

- A. The Park Board shall pay the Organization or its fiscal agent allowable costs as identified in this Agreement not to exceed \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars.) Any variances must be approved by the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Coordinator.
- B. The Organization must ensure that the Project is completed in accordance with Appendix 1 to this Agreement. Any variances must be approved by the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Coordinator. The Organization will notify the Park Board upon the completion of the Project and provide proof to the Park Board of the completion of the Project in the form of a “Project Completion Form”. The Organization will complete all project completion forms provided by the Park Board and provide photo documentation and documentation outlining expenses and matching donations (in-kind donations, volunteer hours, and funds raised).
 - i. The Organization will retain receipts for all allowable costs and will track volunteer hours and volunteer expenditures and will provide access to all such documentation to the Park Board or its representative for possible audit requirements.
 - ii. Upon completion of the Project, the Organization will hold and fund a celebration of the Project and will notify the Park Board no less than 14 days prior to the event so that Park Board Commissioners and staff may attend. The notification needs to indicate whether there is a request for a Commissioner to speak at the event.
 - iii. The Organization will document the before, the during, and the after of the Project with photographs of no fewer than 6 megapixels and will provide those photographs to the Park Board upon completion of the Project. Any

photos in which individuals are identifiable will be accompanied by signed release forms.

- C. A Park Board representative may inspect the completed Project for compliance with this Agreement. The Organization will repay the amounts it received from the Park Board under this Agreement if the Park Board, in its sole discretion, determines that the Organization did not comply with its obligations described in this Agreement.
- D. Should the Organization not complete the Project or in any way fail to comply with its obligations under this Agreement, the Organization will return the funds it received from the Park Board under this Agreement no later than five days after it receives a request to do so from the Park Board.
- E. The Project must acknowledge the Neighbourhood Matching Fund at the project location. This can be done using the Neighbourhood Matching Fund logo and/or wording “This Project has been supported through the Neighbourhood Matching Fund of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.”

II. Contact Persons

Written communication between the Park Board and the Organization will occur through the following individuals:

Attn: Marie-Pierre Bilodeau

s.22(1)

info@vufff.org

Attn: NMF Coordinator

Neighbourhood Matching Fund Administrator
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
2099 Beach Ave., Vancouver, BC V6G 1Z4
nmf@vancouver.ca

or such other person as the Park Board may advise.

III. Third Party General Liability Insurance

The Organization shall furnish to the Park Board, on a City of Vancouver Certificate of Insurance (attached), evidence of third party general liability insurance that protects and holds the Park Board and the City of Vancouver and their respective officers, officials, employees, servants and agents harmless from liability associated with the installation of the described Project. Such policy shall be for at least the principal amount of a combined single limit of **\$2,000,000** per occurrence, personal injury and/or property damage liability and a deductible of not more than **\$25,000.00** on terms acceptable to the City's Director of Risk and Emergency Management. Such insurance shall include the Park Board and the City of Vancouver as an additional insured, will contain a cross-liability clause in favour of the City and the Park Board and shall not be reduced or canceled without 30 days written notice to the Park Board.

The Organization hereby releases the City and its officials, officers, employees and agents ("City Personnel") and the Park Board and its officials, officers, employees and agents (the "Park Board Personnel") from all liabilities including, without limitation, all costs, losses, damages and expenses, including those caused by personal injury, death, property damage, loss and economic loss arising out of, suffered, or experienced by the Organization and the Organization's Personnel in connection with the project.

IV. WCB WorkSafe BC

The Organization will procure, carry and pay for full WCB WorkSafe BC coverage, as required by law, for any of the Society's Personnel engaged in or upon any work or service which is the subject of this Agreement.

V. Project Maintenance

The Park Board is not obligated to assume any maintenance or replacement responsibilities for the project. Work will be removed when and if it deteriorates or becomes a hazard. Maintenance and costs with associated with maintenance, cleaning and repair of the work are the responsibility of the Organization.

VI. Removal of Project

The Organization is responsible for identifying the need to remove the work at the appropriate time, and to notify both the appropriate Organization on whose property the Project is located, as well as the Neighbourhood Matching Fund coordinator. Should the Organization fail to remove the work at its own expense, the Park Board will remove the work and invoice the Organization for those costs.

VII. Permit Requirements and City Department Approvals

Prior to proceeding with Project construction, the Organization shall furnish to the Park Board copies of the appropriate City of Vancouver permits or department approvals:

VIII. Title to Property Acquired and Works Produced

The ownership of property purchased by, or constructed with, Neighbourhood Matching Funds shall rest with the Public Realm Body on whose property the Project is located.

IX. Copyright and Waiver of Moral Rights

A. Copyright

The Organization will require participating artists/project advisors upon completion of the Work to deliver an Assignment of Joint Copyright executed by the artist/project advisor to the Park Board. The worldwide copyright in the Work shall be jointly held by the artist/project advisor, the Organization, the Park Board and the City. (Appendix 2)

B. Waiver of Moral Rights

The Organization will advise the artist/project advisor that they will waive all moral rights in respect of the Work including photographic documentation. The Organization hereby acknowledges and agrees that at any time the Park Board and/or the City may:

- (a) alter the Site;
- (b) replace, substitute or remove any vegetation on the Site, including any vegetation forming part of the Work;
- (c) repair and maintain the Work;
- (d) relocate the Work or any portion thereof to another location;
- (e) remove the Work;
- (f) alter the Work;
- (g) use the Site for any City or Park Board purpose; or
- (h) destroy the Work.

X. Published Materials

A. The Park Board and the City of Vancouver shall have unrestricted authority to publish, disclose, distribute and otherwise use, in whole or in part, any reports, data, or other materials prepared under this Agreement.

All finished or unfinished documents and written materials prepared by the Organization with funds provided by this Agreement shall be available for inspection and copying by the Park Board, the City of Vancouver.

B. Any document prepared by the Organization that is or will be made available to the public, unless specifically exempted, shall contain the following disclaimer:
This document has been funded in part by the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Program of the Vancouver Park Board. The information contained herein does

not necessarily reflect the policies of the Park Board. The Park Board does not warrant the accuracy of any of the information contained in this document.

XI. Changes

Either party may request changes to this Agreement. Changes that are mutually agreed upon by the Neighbourhood Organization and the Park Board shall be incorporated in written amendments to this Agreement prior to their execution.

XII. Compliance with Agreement and Termination

Failure to fulfill the terms of this Agreement may result in the requirement to repay the full funding amount to the Park Board and/or removal of the Project.

This Agreement may be terminated by the Park Board upon at least seven (7) days' notice to the Organization in the event that the project is permanently abandoned.

XIII. Accessibility

The Organization, in designing and installing this Project, must consider accessibility by people with disabilities.

Signed:

Per: Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation



Date 04/03/23

Donnie Rosa, General Manager
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Per:

(Organization)

Authorized Signatory (please print legal name): _____



Date _____

(Authorized Signatory signature)

APPENDIX 1
NMF APPLICATION



Neighbourhood Matching Fund Fall 2022 Guidelines & Application

Neighbourhood Matching Fund Application

Please provide all of the necessary information requested after carefully reviewing the guidelines included above.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- a. Project Name: Vancouver Urban Food Forest (VUFF) at Burrard View Park
Sponsoring Organization's name & neighbourhood: Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation (VUFFF)

Sponsoring Organization not-for-profit number: 78056 9067

- b. Project location: Burrard View Park
- c. Please provide a one sentence description of your project: VUFF will be a biodiverse forest garden, developed and maintained using Indigenous traditional knowledge and permaculture principles becoming a vibrant community hub and gathering space for all living beings.

Project Contact: Marie-Pierre Bilodeau

Email: info@vufff.org Phone: s.22(1)

- d. Contact at Sponsoring Organisation (if different from Project Contact).

Email: Phone:

Sponsor Organization Mailing Address: s.22(1)
s.22(1)

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (max 200 words)

- What activities will your group undertake?
- What do you hope to accomplish?
- What is the neighbourhood need this project addresses?
- What is the anticipated lifetime of the project?

Please note that projects must enhance public space or expand green space and result in a physical legacy. Celebrations, parades, performances, etc. are only eligible if they are part of a lasting legacy.

We are creating a space for knowledge-sharing and food growing as well as a hub for workshops, events and learning opportunities. VUFF will provide hands-on skills for all levels of experience to both work in the food forest and take the skills learned back home to implement in any type of dwelling. Growing local, culturally appropriate and nutrient rich food in a collective space will directly benefit food security and social cohesion in our neighbourhood. Growing food and Indigenous plants in a food forest creates an interactive demonstration of what food production could be were it grounded in ecological principles and supporting the land. Communal growing spaces not only create the opportunity to produce local food, but also an environment where community members can meet, connect and learn together. This access to nature increases rates of biophilia or innate connection individuals feel towards nature therefore increasing the likelihood of people adopting climate smart practices in daily life and feeling more connected to community. This project will be a permanent addition to the park. Some nut trees live up to 200 years and we will be successively planting to ensure food is produced for years to come.

2. LOCATION: Where will the project take place?

Your project must be located on land stewarded by the Park Board land or other public land trustee within Vancouver's city limits (i.e. City of Vancouver, Vancouver Public Library, or Vancouver School Board).

Please include any specific details and attach a photo and map.

The project will be located in the Southeast area of Burrard View Park adjacent to the field house.

- This project is taking place on unceded territories. In what ways are you acknowledging Host Nations, xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx wú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), in this project?

We are developing this project to protect and regenerate the ancestral land of the host nations, the Sá,μwx̌łwÃə7mesh, x̌mÉ™̌,ǩÉ™y̌“É™m and sÉ™ł̌“ilwÉ™taÉ™̌ by creating awareness around land stewardship, biodiversity, and the immense potential of systemic change through urban food growing. The Hastings-Sunrise Indigenous population is 33% larger

than that for the City of Vancouver at large. As such, VUFF is co-led by local urban Indigenous knowledge-sharers, has created meaningful partnerships with Indigenous community organizations in our area and is committed to re-introducing Indigenous biodiversity to Vancouver Parks. A food forest is a form of ancestral food growing and land stewardship used by Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations since time immemorial. We are recreating history and creating a visible example of what these lands may have looked like hundreds of years ago. We will have Indigenous plant identification signage in both Squamish and Halkomelem languages which will also explain how the plants were used traditionally. To make these signs we are currently working with a group of Capilano University students who are building meaningful relationships alongside our team with Indigenous ethnobotanists from this land in order to gather accurate spellings and information.

3. PARTICIPATION

- Who will lead the project?
- Who will participate in the project (Estimated number of participants)?
- How will you work with and involve community members in all stages of this project? *Projects must encourage community participation in the project process and allow new participants to join at any stage. Examples of stages include planning or design meetings, workshops, work parties, etc.*
- How will you reach out to involve a diverse range of community members? *Examples of outreach efforts to your community include flyers, posters, connecting with the Business Improvement Association or local schools.*
- How will you work to make your project accessible? These may include mobility barriers, language barriers, etc.) *Examples of eliminating barriers: your meeting space will be wheelchair accessible; the project committee will have members that can assist with translation (written and verbal).*
- How will you engage equity deserving groups or individuals with your project?

The project will be led by Marie-Pierre Bilodeau, Leona Brown and Omri Haiven. Permaculture designer Brandon Bauer will help with the layout. The rest of our team is listed here: <https://vufff.org/our-story/> Around 60 volunteers will help out with the implementation of the food forest over the monthlong installation period. We have been working with Kiwassa Neighbourhood House to access a diversity of folks in our neighbourhood. We go door knocking to spread the word about our programs and the community hosts us for info sessions. We work with AMCS and PAFNW to make our programming accessible and visible to the urban Indigenous community. We do a lot of

posting in the neighbourhood. Many of our VUFFF cocreators speak a second language so we have access to translation and we have connections through organization we work with to offer this service. We have been in consultation with a woman at Disabled Independent Gardeners Association who lives with cerebral palsy and helped guide us in designing an accessible garden. We see Indigenous people as well as various first-generation immigrants as plant knowledge-keepers in our neighbourhood. Their ongoing participation will help this project perform a valuable service to our community and its land-use.

4. PARTNERS (max 100 words)

- What partners (community groups, artists, environmental consultants, businesses, etc.) will you work with?
- How will the partners be involved with this project
- Please give examples of the experience and knowledge your partners bring to the project that you feel will have a positive impact on this work.
If partnering with a professional artist or consultant, please attach a short Bio and/or CV

VUFF is partnered with Pacific Association of First Nations Women, Wall Street Community Garden, Hastings Centre Food & Gardens Program and many more! Kiwassa Neighbourhood House is part of the VUFF core organizing group. Kiwassa has operated for over 65 years and has deep roots within the community. This project will be a springboard for many of the programs Kiwassa offers. We are working with Aboriginal Mother Centre to help reconnect young Indigenous mothers to the land. Providing opportunities for cultural teachings within the VUFF space is important to the Aboriginal Mother Centre's transitional housing program for young Indigenous mothers.

5. BENEFITS (max 150 words)

- How will this project build neighbourhood connections?
- How will this project creatively enhance public space in parks or in Community Centres and the neighbourhood?

We have been working deeply with marginalized voices; focusing our outreach on urban Indigenous populations; low-income and other underrepresented peoples and seeking out leadership in our own decision-making from this community and from elders. This is essential to our bottom up approach and we co-create projects with our neighbours with patience, flexibility, empathy and kindness. Building a solid foundation rooted in the process and the people and community we serve ensures long term positive impact and the ability for the people being served to eventually take the challenges confidently into their own hands and create their own new realities on their own terms. Our project is based on a philosophy of sharing harvests, collectiveÂ gardening, being guided by Indigenous ways of knowing, prioritizing marginalized voices and creating a

hub for mutual aid and that is how we enhance public space in the neighbourhood.



NMF Spring 2022 Application Project Timelines & Budget

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Please note that projects should be completed within **two years of funding approval**. If you have not reached the stage of planning a schedule yet, then a proposed one is acceptable as these schedules are considered subject to change.

Community Outreach Activities (to inform public and build participation)	Month/Year
<i>Example: posters, information sessions etc.</i>	<i>March – September 2021</i>
Online community conversations,	April 2020 - February 2023
Multiple outreach days at Burrard View Park,	
Flyering and postering the neighbourhood,	
Neighbourhood Food Week event,	
Partners and neighbours sharing information on social media and Facebook groups,	
In-person info sessions in various parks and	
Project Implementation Activities	
<i>Example: Work Party with volunteers</i>	<i>October 2021</i>
Build the food forest - This includes the plantin	February 2023 - March 2023
Begin workshops, programs and events. Cont	March - August 2023
Neighbourhood Food Week Event	September 2023
Workshops, events, programs and outreach	September 2023 - Ongoing



MAINTENANCE PLAN (max 100 words)

Please describe a plan to maintain the project created for future years.

Describe the long-term management plan of the site and complete the timeline below for the project maintenance throughout the seasons/years ahead.

YEAR	STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES
Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly removal of debris and garbage from the garden by garden clean-up committee• Maintain and update your website that hosts your documented project
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3 and beyond	

1. NMF BUDGET INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

A. EXPENSES - your MATCH must be equal to or greater than this amount

- Include all items and services that you need in order to complete your project.
- Professional fees for consultants or practitioners (e.g. lead artist, botanist, educator, etc.)
- Please note that a Project Coordinator/Administration fee cannot exceed 10% of the requested funds.
- With pre- approval, small honoraria can be budgeted in the project expenses to address barriers to participation e.g. transit, child care.
- If your organization does not already have third party liability insurance, you will need to purchase coverage (minimum \$2 million per occurrence). This is an expense that can be included in your budget. The same applies to the required COV business license for not-for-profit organizations.
- All original receipts for expenditures must be retained in case of audit and be made available to Park Board staff upon request.

B. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS – Your MATCH must be equal to or greater than your EXPENSES. The NMF will match community contributions of volunteer labour, in-kind supplies and services donated and/or other funds raised.

- **VOLUNTEER LABOUR**
 - a. Volunteer labour can be counted for anyone who will be *actively* participating in the project without pay, including participating community members. Volunteer labour is valued at \$20.52/hour, the current living wage in Metro Vancouver.
http://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/what_is_living_wage
 - b. Please list the estimated total hours of all volunteers and their value. Examples of volunteer labour include planning and/or design meetings, workshops and work parties or other meetings or sessions when neighbours and others involved formally come together to discuss or work on the project
 - c. ***Please Note: Only volunteer hours completed after funding is awarded and a contract is signed are eligible.***
- **IN-KIND DONATIONS**

These may include materials, supplies and professional fees (i.e. donated landscape services by a professional, individual or firm). Please value any donated professional services or materials at a fair market value.
- **CASH SUPPORT**

Please list all sources of cash support, including all fundraising efforts, business sources, individual donations, grants or other funding. If the applicant has secured **other city funding**, the max amount of total city and Park Board funding is \$10,000.00.

C. NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND REQUEST (Maximum 50% of overall project budget)

- a. Your request amount **cannot exceed \$10,000 and you cannot request more than the total of Your Expenses**
- b. Funds will not be granted for resources already purchased prior to confirmed funding



PROJECT BUDGET

Description of your matching community contributions:	I. Value of In-Kind Donations	II. Value of Volunteer Time	III. Value of Other Cash Support	Secured or Pending?
70 volunteers (10 volunteer per day x 7 days) for 8 hours		\$11,491.20		Pending
REFBC Grant - Granted for the Burrard View Park Project			\$27,000	Secured
Grow Grant			\$10,000	Secured
Staff Support	\$6000			Secured
Vancity Grant			\$2500	Secured
TOTAL MATCH:	\$	\$	\$	\$

**NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING FUND REQUEST:
(Maximum 50% of your total expenses + match)**

\$10,000

- Garden Footprint
- New Playground
- Study Area







Aboriginal Mother Centre Society
2019 Dundas St
Vancouver, BC V5L 1J5

November 4, 2021

To whom it may concern:

The goal of Aboriginal Mother Centre is to reunite indigenous mothers and their children and to give them a safe place to call home. As a transitional housing program, women and their children can stay here up to 18 months and during that time we offer a number of programs and supports to help prepare them for independent living.

Providing opportunities for cultural teachings and events is especially important to our transitional housing program, and we see Vancouver Urban Food Forest as an ally in this endeavor. Not only will the community garden provide a place to gather together and learn about indigenous plants and their uses as medicine or food, the garden will also provide an opportunity to connect with the land. The connection with the land was severed by the effect colonialism for many indigenous people, particularly those living in urban settings like Vancouver, and this separation has profound effects on identity, cultural knowledge, and ultimately mental wellness. While it may seem small, the chance to plant, tend, or just visit a garden close by is very meaningful.

Having an opportunity to teach these ways to a new generation of indigenous youth without having to leave the city would be fantastic.

All my relations,

Sarah Cushman
Community Engagement Specialist
Aboriginal Mother Centre Society

To Whom it may concern,

I live in Hastings Sunrise and I have also worked in several food-security related jobs. The Vancouver Urban Food Forest is a fantastic and much-needed project, one that has been notably missing from Vancouver.

About a decade ago, I made a road trip down to Seattle to see what was then the new [Beacon Food Forest](#). Located in a low-income neighbourhood and offering community connection through examples of food growing, the chance to learn through volunteering and events as well as classes, as well as shared outdoor space - even a gazebo and an outdoor oven to facilitate gathering and sharing. This was obviously going to be a real asset to build cross-cultural understanding of food and knowledge of what is possible in this climate for Seattle. I was chagrined that the Vancouver area had nothing of the kind.

This is why I was so excited to see the VUFF project come to light in my very own neighbourhood! I gather there are some whiny neighbours who do not wish the current state of broad lawns in their local park to be disturbed and who make the astounding claim that gardens are not of interest to children.

Some of my past jobs include:

Coordinator, Historic Stewart Farm, Surrey

Gender Equality & Youth Empowerment Advisor in Value Added Agriculture (WUSC), Eastern Caribbean

Career Facilitator, Coquitlam School District

I've also got training in "Eat and Think Green" for schools at UBC, "Growing Food in the City" from Burnaby Continuing Education/Gaia College, and "Horticultural Therapy" from O.U.R. Ecovillage on Vancouver Island.

So, I have some experience with both food gardens and youth. They are a very good mix indeed. And there has been insufficient opportunity for the growth of this kind of education in our area for both youth and adults. The VUFF is a much-needed and really positive development. I look forward to seeing it go forward.

Sincerely,
Tasha Nathanson

Hi, my name is Julia Seymour and I am representing Harbourview Childcare Centre, which is located within Burrardview park. I've been talking with the children about the project of the food forest and am grateful to have this chance to share some of their thoughts in the form of direct quotes:

When I described the concept of the project, one three year old said "Let's grow food! But who can bring seeds? Hurray! I'm going to push them in. Who's going to bring the dirt? We have some dirt we can share".

A four year old commented "The garden is not for people to smash. We can take care of it together" and "maybe I can ask my aunty and uncle if I can borrow their gardening tools and I can dig a hole for the food!"

They also shared what they would like in the garden: A four year old said: "I would like strawberries and raspberries"

Another said: "I like pink flowers"

And one said: "I would only like it if there was cauliflower growing" and "we're going to need construction workers"

The conversation continued, bringing up further themes of community care, shared experiences, biology, big picture thinking, exploring personal preferences and the list goes on. As educators, we can see the richness that this project would bring into the lives of the children who would be physically closest to it. Even just being able to witness this come to fruition would be magical for them! Showing them that good ideas can become reality is a huge part of our work. Supporting them to take care of themselves, other people, and places is the foundation for everything else. At the risk of sounding corny, I think it's valuable for us adults to take note of how these children responded to the proposal of something new - they immediately saw opportunities for good things, focused on how they could help and what they would need to be successful. They think from a place of abundance and we forget how to do that as we grow up. For so many reasons we really hope that this garden happens. May us adults stop gatekeeping abundance, see what's possible in a kinder, more liberated world and just go for it!

Julia Seymour
Harbour View Daycare Coordinator