



BOWEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2023

BICF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The BICF was incorporated as a Society in 2001 and obtained charitable status in 2003. Its membership is composed of an all-volunteer Board. The Foundation helps build a resilient community that strengthens Bowen Islanders' sense of belonging and we do this by encouraging individual and organizational engagement in our Community through philanthropy. Our Annual Giving campaign coheres around the idea that "Community Grows Here."

The Foundation is one of approximately 200 community foundations in Canada and draws investment expertise for our many endowment funds from the Vancouver Foundation.

Our mission is to engage the community and inspire generosity that will benefit Bowen Island for generations, to realize our vision of an enriched quality of life for all Bowen Islanders.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

Donations are the lifeblood of the Foundation and, every year, the Bowen community humbles us with its philanthropic support. This year has been no exception. In 2023, overall donations to the Community Foundation were \$312,117, an increase of nearly 31 percent over the \$238,864 generously donated in 2022. Both years' donations were especially humbling given how the economic conditions of the past two years left many facing rising costs of living yet they still gave generously. We are grateful and mindful of the trust that the community places in the Foundation by continuing to make generous donations.

In 2023, the combined market value of our funds held at the First Credit Union and endowed with the Vancouver Foundation was \$3,043,230, an increase on the previous year's total of \$2,803,692. This includes the very generous donation to the Community Centre that the Foundation is stewarding until it is required for that project.

In our granting cycles in 2023, the Foundation was able to give out \$209,608 to the Bowen community. This total comprises our larger Community Impact Grants, the individual \$500 Neighbourhood Small Grants, numerous scholarships and bursaries, and special funding support through the Youth at Risk Fund and the Helping Hand Fund. Every year, the Foundation is glad to be able to complete the circle of receiving donations from the Bowen community, stewarding them and then giving back to the Bowen community. The innovative projects, students and learners, and those who need some help can all be supported because Bowen is generous.

Board of Directors

Chair

Kate Thomas-Peter

Vice Chair

Richard Smith

Directors

Margaret Butler

Fiona Douglas-Crampton

Gayle Farrell

Greg Gibson

Leah Gregg

Bobbi Parker

Jan Seaman

Leila Swann, CPA, CA,

Treasurer/Secretary

Peter Wrinch

Administrator

Martina Iring

2024 Grant Recipients

Bowen Golf

BI Arts Council (The Hearth)

BI Community School

BI Resilient Community

Housing Society

Queen vs Green Festival

Seniors Keeping Young

Snug Cove House

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge with gratitude that we live and work on the unceded territories of the Squamish (Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh), Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Tsleil-Waututh (Səḵ̓w̓ətaʔ/Selilwitlh), and Sechelt (Shíshálh) First Nations.



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Although the Foundation stewards different kinds of funds, the main mandate is to create and administer endowment funds to respond to community needs on a continuing basis. Each year, we are able to thank generous donors for new endowment funds and over the 23 years of the Foundation's existence, 16 endowment funds have been established. Most recently, in 2023, Soren and Elizabeth Hammerberg provided generous funds to establish the Friends of the Foundation Endowment Fund for the purpose of supporting the fixed operating costs of the Community Foundation. This thoughtful and innovative gift means that the grants provided from all other Funds are enhanced so that the Foundation and the Bowen community both benefit. In the early part of 2023, two other endowments were established which Holly Graff spoke about at last year's Annual Meeting. The Bowen Island Football Club Founders Award Scholarship and the Logan Family Healthcare Scholarship both provided scholarships in September last year to grateful Bowen students. Thank you to all these generous donors.

Whilst all donations are wonderful gifts, endowed funds are unique in that they provide grants or scholarships and bursaries in perpetuity. In this way, donations to the Community Foundation keep on giving way beyond the year in which donors make their gift.

Aside from its usual cycles of work, 2023 was a particularly busy year for the Community Foundation. In June 2023 the third Vital Conversations event took place. Vital Conversations is an important event because its purpose is for the Foundation to engage with the community about needs and priorities. These insights guide the Foundation's work for community granting until the next Vital Conversation. In the 2017 Vital Conversation, "Bring healthcare close to home" and "Gathering spaces for all" were two of the Bowen Community's priorities which guided some of the Foundation's granting between 2017 and 2023. With facilities now being built to fulfil those priorities, others have come to the fore and the report containing the 2023 Vital Conversations priorities can be found on the BICF website. Community building; environmental protection; equity, diversity, and inclusivity; housing; transportation; visitor management; volunteerism; youth and seniors are our new priorities and you will see some of them reflected in this year's Community Impact Grants and in grants for the next few years too.

In a new venture for this year, the Bowen Island Community Foundation is participating in the rollout of the BC Government's \$25 million Community Prosperity Fund, an arm of the Stronger Community Services Fund. The Community Prosperity Fund will provide operational grants for charities and non-profits addressing community prosperity, affordability, and social inclusion for projects up to three years in length. The amounts that communities receive is based on population size, so Bowen Island has a small slice of the Fund, but it is a very welcome addition to the annual Community Impact Grants.

The Foundation is busy and all this activity requires a lot of thanks. Firstly, thank you to those community and Board members who were involved in Vital Conversations. It requires a lot of organisation and takes many volunteer hours. Secondly, I want to thank the hard working, tirelessly committed volunteer Board of the Community Foundation. It always takes a team and they generously give their time not just to Board meetings but to the many other tasks required to serve the Bowen community through the Foundation's work. We also thank the many community members who serve on committees for the Neighbourhood Small Grants program, the Helping Hand Fund, and the Youth at Risk Fund, as well as past Directors who continue to serve as volunteers on other Foundation committees.



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This year we say goodbye to two Board members. David Verlee lived on Bowen with his family for many years and relatively recently joined the Board. He has now moved overseas and we thank him for his contributions whilst it was possible for him to do so. Henry Campbell has come to the end of his 8-year term as a Director. He has been a great “all round” contributor to the Board but Bowen’s students have particular reason to be thankful for Henry’s passionate and unstinting commitment to the Scholarships and Bursaries Committee. We also thank him for his recognizable and unforgettable “voice” in countless public communications about the Foundation’s work. Thank you, Henry, for your great commitment and contribution.

We are fortunate this year that four new Directors have come forward to offer their time and expertise to the board. Bobbi Parker joined earlier this year, bringing much experience in fundraising and business management in Not-for-Profit organisations. Three additional Directors, each with senior-level experience in Not-for-Profit organisations both in Canada and elsewhere in the world have been approved as Board members. Bobbi’s skills have already been put to good use and we know that Fiona Douglas-Crampton, Margaret Butler, and Peter Wrinch will also quickly contribute their knowledge and experience to the Board’s work. A warm welcome to them all.

I also want to say a very big thank you to Martina Iring, who is the Foundation’s Administrator. A volunteer Board needs a good administrator to manage and record its work, and in Martina, we found one of the best. We really couldn’t do all that we do without her.

Finally, and most gratefully, to our many donors, sincere thanks for your generosity, interest in and trust in the Bowen Island Community Foundation. I am proud to be a part of the Foundation’s work and to serve as its Chair for 2024.

K. M. Thomas-Peter.

Kate Thomas-Peter
Chair
Bowen Island Community Foundation



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2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Bowen Golf	Artificial turf project aimed at expanding inclusive youth programming	\$17,000
Bowen Island Arts Council – The Hearth	Authentically Indigenous Festival	\$6,000
Bowen Island Community School (BICS)	Communication boards for playground	\$4,000
Bowen Island Resilient Community Housing Society (BIRCH)	Phased development plan for Lot 1	\$5,000
Archer Florendo	Queen vs Green Festival	\$3,000
Seniors Keeping Young (SKY)	Expanded programs for seniors	\$15,000
Snug Cove House	Snug Cove House Accessibility Upgrades	\$25,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$75,000



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2024 KNICK KNACK NOOK GRANTS:

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY		
ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Bowen Island Arts Council – The Hearth	Indigenous children’s art exhibit	\$2,400
Bowen Island Municipality (Recreation Department)	Recreation program accessibility	\$4,000
Seniors Keeping Young (SKY)	Exercise and education programs	\$5,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY		
ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Bowen Island Conservancy	Bowen nature poster	\$5,855
Bowen Island Conservancy	Covenant mapping	\$13,125
Island Pacific School (IPS)	Reusable coffee cup program	\$1,350
GRAND TOTAL		\$31,730

2024 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kate Thomas-Peter, Chair
Richard Smith, Vice Chair
Margaret Butler
Fiona Douglas-Crampton
Gayle Farrell

Greg Gibson
Leah Gregg
Jan Seaman
Leila Swann, CPA, CA, Treasurer/Secretary
Peter Wrinch

BOARD RETIREMENTS:

Henry Campbell
David Verlee

ADMINISTRATOR:

Martina Iring



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FEATURED ARTIST (2024-2026):

Fae Logie

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Finance Advisory Committee	Larry Lunn
Grants Committee	Jennifer Pardee
Helping Hand Committee	Louise McIntosh, Chair Gary Ander Markus Behm Amanda Ockeloen Oydis Dike Peterson
Neighbourhood Small Grants Committee	Murray Atherton Frazer Elliott Joyce Ganong Kevin Manning Nicola Murray Maureen Nicholson Donna Scorer Jessica Slater
Youth at Risk Committee	Neil Boyd, Chair Colleen O'Neil, Bowen Island Health Centre Lorinda Strang, Orchard Recovery Centre John Stiver, BIM Youth Services Coordinator Aaron Hanen, BIM Fire Chief