



**BOWEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2024

BICF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Bowen Island Community Foundation 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.

Incorporated as a society in 2001 and obtaining charitable status in 2003, BICF membership is composed of an all-volunteer Board. The Foundation supports community resilience and strengthening Bowen Islanders' sense of belonging by encouraging individual and organizational engagement in our community through philanthropy. Our Annual Giving campaign slogan is "Community Grows Here" and through Bowen's generosity, it's promise is fulfilled year on year.

The Foundation is one of 206 Community Foundations across Canada, all working with a similar model of seeking donations from the local community, then stewarding them through investment and giving back to the community from the proceeds. This provides disbursements in perpetuity for the community's benefit. BICF draws its investment expertise from the Vancouver Foundation.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

2024 has been a good year for the Foundation through some generous donations and income from Endowments and other sources. The Post Office strike, which interfered with receipt of donations for many Charities, may have had a small impact on donations from the community to BICF which were slightly lower than last year. However, Bowen Islanders pivoted to donating online through Canada Helps or other similar organisations and dropped envelopes at First Credit Union, whose help we were very grateful for. These things largely mitigated the effect of the strike.

As usual, I will provide some headlines of our financial position and you will find more detailed information in our 2024 Gratitude Report, prepared by the Treasurer. In 2024, tax receipted donations to the Community Foundation were \$296,794, close to the 2023 total of \$312,117.

The combined donations for the last two years are over \$600,000 which is humbling and quite remarkable for a small community of just over 4,000 islanders. We are grateful and mindful as always, of the trust that the community place in the Foundation but its generous donations.

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

Madison Hausdorf

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 (Skwxwú7mesh),
Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm),
Tsleil-Waututh
(Selilwəta?/Selilwitulh), and
Sechelt (Shíshálh) First
Nations.*



At the end of 2024, the combined market value of our funds held at the First Credit Union, and those endowed with the Vancouver Foundation was \$2,521,889. This was a decrease from the previous year's total of \$3,043,230 but for a very good reason. As reported in previous years, BICF has been pleased to steward a very generous donation specified as Last Mile Funding for the Bowen Community Centre. As well as several smaller grants over the development of the project, at the end of 2024 the Last Mile Funding was released to the Municipality, after the conditions to receive the donation were fulfilled and now, from April 7th, the Bowen community will be able to use a new gathering space.

The effect of releasing the Last Mile Funding has had a counterbalancing effect on the amount the Foundation has granted. In our granting cycles in 2023, the Foundation granted \$209,608 to the Bowen Community. In 2024, we granted \$1,337,367.38. The single donation for the Community Centre of almost \$1m and \$115,000 from the Community Prosperity Fund are a large part of this figure but overall, this is really a quite remarkable amount.

In 2024, the Foundation participated for the first time in the BC Government's \$25m Community Prosperity Fund, providing 3-year operational grants for charities and non-profits addressing community prosperity, affordability and social inclusion. Based on population size and poverty measures, Bowen received a \$115,000 slice of the \$25m to distribute. Seven applications were received from Bowen organisations and a decision-making Committee of community members, supported by BICF, made the decision to grant all the funding to a Collins Hall upgrade as a means of supporting the large number of Bowen Island groups that use that facility. In addition to the two large grants mentioned, \$248,771 was also granted to the community through Community Impact Grants, Neighbourhood Small Grants, Scholarships and Bursaries, the Youth at Risk and Helping Hand Funds.

Endowment Funds are set up for different reasons but sometimes, they are established in memory of a community member. In 2024, a new endowment fund was established in memory of Janice Skeels, who many will have known. The Fund was established by her family to provide support to the Med Shed on Bowen Island whose services Janice had benefited from during her illness. The Med Shed is run by the Bowen Island Public Library who will now receive annual funding to repair existing equipment or purchase new, so that other Bowen Islanders will be able to access medical equipment when it is needed. Thank you to Janice's family for this generous gift.

Another generous gift has enabled the expansion of the Youth Resilience program provided to support Bowen youth and young adults experiencing mental health issues. Supported by the Youth at Risk Fund, it has for a number of years provided financial help to young people needing counselling but experiencing financial difficulties in accessing it. From May 1st this year, the carers of those young people will also be able to access financial assistance for counselling to help them support the young person's mental health. This is a pilot project for one year and we are grateful for the generosity of the donor who is making this possible.



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We like to spend time in our Annual Meeting celebrating the impact of Bowen's generosity on developing the quality of life for the community and to also do lots of thanking of the many people involved in supporting the Community Foundation.

The Foundation has the benefit of the wealth of knowledge and expertise of community members who join BICF committees with a willingness to give their time to do this. Thank you to those who serve on our Neighbourhood Small Grants, Helping Hands and Youth at Risk Committees. Thank you too to the community members who served on the 2024 ad hoc Community Prosperity Fund Committee and thank you to past Board members who continue to support the Foundation's work on the Youth at Risk Committee, Governance Committee, Finance Committee, Scholarships and Bursaries Committee. We appreciate and thank all 34 of you.

The Bowen Foundation gets through a lot of work during the year and none of it would be possible without the steadfast commitment of the volunteer Board. The Foundation tries to keep its overheads as low as possible and so we contract only with a part time Administrator, a part time Bookkeeper, and two occasional contractors who keep our IT infrastructure in good order. The rest is done by the Board, and I thank them most sincerely for all the work that they do, the experience and commitment they bring and their good humour and good company.

Inevitably, Board members step down from their Board responsibilities. This year, we say goodbye to Bobbi Parker who has moved to live in Mexico and thank her for her work with the Foundation before she left. Holly Graff is Past Chair of the Board, and we said deeply grateful thanks to her work as Chair two years ago. I have been thankful for her continued support on many occasions since then. Greg Gibson has chaired the Foundation's Communications Committee and done an amazing job for which we are very grateful. He was also responsible for bringing featured artist, Faye Logie's amazing work to the Foundation and many other things. You will be missed Greg.

In January of this year, we said goodbye to Administrator Martina Iring, and in February we welcomed Madison Hausdorf into this busy role which is so vital to the smooth running of any organization.

Finally, and most gratefully, to our many Donors, sincere thanks for your generosity, interest and trust in the Bowen Island Community Foundation. I am proud to continue to be a part of the Foundation's work and to serve as its Chair for 2025.

K.M. Thomas-Peter

Kate Thomas-Peter
Chair
Bowen Island Community Foundation



2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Men's Shed	Insulate and ventilate the club workshop.	\$9,145
SKY	Expand off-island excursions including transport through partnerships.	\$19,500
SlowPitch	Ball diamond improvements to assure safety for players and spectators.	\$12,500
Growing Space (Montessori)	Repair fence and replenishing wood chips to enhance outdoor play space.	\$2,500
Tourism	To lead visitor management and build community involvement	\$8,000
HEARTH	Assistance in the creation of a new website for the Bowen Theatre, the performing arts space in the new Community Theatre	\$3,000
Bowen Island Conservancy	Ecological assessment and development of a management plan for the newly acquired Cape Roger Curtis lands	\$15,000
Bowfest	Process documentation and support for the festival	\$5,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$74,645

2024 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

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



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BOARD RETIREMENTS:

Holly Graff
Greg Gibson
Bobbi Parker.

ADMINISTRATOR:

Madison Hausdorf

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 Maureen Nicholson Donna Scorer Jessica Slater Laura Fitzgerald Jessica Lindsay
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