

CITY OF VICTORIA | Neighbourhoods

Celebrating 10 Years My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and the Xwsepsum Nation



Celebrating 10 Years of the My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program

Ten years ago, Victoria City Council approved a new grant program dedicated to supporting community-initiated placemaking projects. What began as a vision to empower residents to shape the place they call home has grown into a cornerstone of strengthening neighbourhood connections and building social capacity across Victoria.

By offering matched funding for placemaking projects, community development activities, and resilience-building initiatives, this grant program encourages creativity, collaboration, and local leadership. The program welcomes applications from not-for-profit organizations, neighbourhood associations, schools, and resident or business groups partnering with a local non-profit. All projects must take place within the City of Victoria and directly benefit residents.

At its heart, this program supports community-led efforts that build identity, foster neighbourhood pride and improve quality of life. Successful projects demonstrate neighbourhood support, encourage participation and create opportunities for people to come together, often forming new friendships and strengthening existing relationships along the way.

Since its inception, the City has approved 413 projects and invested more than \$1.2 million across all 12 neighbourhoods. These projects, both large and small, highlight the creativity and care Victoria residents bring to their communities. With modest funding, neighbours have transformed shared spaces, created new connections and built resilience.

This review celebrates a decade of remarkable accomplishments and showcases just a sampling of the innovative ways residents continue to make Victoria an even better place to live together. The following pages provide a breakdown of grants by neighbourhood. In addition to this report, all the placemaking projects can be viewed on VicMap in the gallery setting.

As we look to the future, this report highlights the value of supporting initiatives that empower residents and strengthen neighbourhoods.

Table 1 Breakdown of allocation of grant program by year

	Total Grants Approved by Year	Total \$ Allocated
2016	22	\$97,630
2017	38	\$115,906
2018	43	\$120,000
2019	55	\$112,245
2020	51	\$184,205
2021	41	\$125,484
2022	36	\$106,846
2023	44	\$139,210
2024	37	\$143,380
2025	46	\$140,452
Total	413	\$1,285,358

Burnside

Residents and organizations in the Burnside neighbourhood have received a total of 42 grants - 14 community activity grants, six community resiliency grants and 22 placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$128,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2017	Urban Food Garden tour	1Up Single Parent Resource Centre	Food garden tour	Activity	\$1,000
2017	Waterfront Crescent celebration	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Celebration for Selkirk waterfront residents and businesses	Activity	\$1,000
2017	Multicultural Festival	Treelane Estates	Monthly cultural food-sharing series for apartment residents	Activity	\$1,000
2018	Creating Connections Gorge Rd	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Educational workshops and social events series for apartment residents	Activity	\$1,000
2019	LeBlonde Community Development	CRD Housing	Series of activities to connect and educate residents, focusing on mental health and nutrition	Activity	\$1,000
2021	Selkirk block party	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,000
2021	BGCA 30th celebration	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Community event	Activity	\$1,000
2022	Loreen Summer Series	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Series of community events for residents at Loreen Pl.	Activity	\$1,000
2022	Selkirk Waterfront Winter Festival	Burnside Gorge Community Association	neighbourhood gathering to light up park and celebrate winter	Activity	\$1,000
2023	Mountain Bike Skills Event	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Bike skill event for riders aged 6-12	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Washington Ave Welcome Party	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Halloween and welcome party	Activity	\$1,000
2024	PWP Table tennis program	Parkinsons Wellness project	Table tennis program	Activity	\$1,500
2025	Selkirk Interstrata info session	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Info session on programs	Activity	\$1,046
2025	Gnome for the Holidays	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Arts and crafts workshop	Activity	\$1,500
				14	\$15,546

2020	Treelane Resident Security	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Addition of security infrastructure and programs for residents	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2020	Anti-Stigma Community Learning event	MakeWay - The Existence Project	Anti-stigma education session on homelessness and addictions for residents	Community Resiliency	\$2,000
2020	Bill's Bag Lunches	Cool Aid	Weekly lunch distribution for homeless people in Rock Bay	Community Resiliency	\$3,725
2020	Burnside Gorge BIA	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Formation of BIA to aid economic resiliency	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2021	Community Fridge	Capital Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable	Installation of a community fridge	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2022	SJ Burnside Garden	Compost Education Centre	Improvements and programs for SJ Willis campus garden	Community Resiliency	\$4,600
				6	\$25,325
2016	Rock Bay Mural	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Wall mural on a retaining wall 301 Gorge Rd East	Placemaking	\$2,310
2016	Rock Bay Creek Revival II	Fernwood Community Association	A series of interpretive signs describing the history of Rock Bay Creek in Burnside and Fernwood	Placemaking	\$4,750
2018	Cecelia Cove Playspace	Pacific Montessori Society	A natural playscape added to Cecelia Cove Park	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Cecelia Ravine Community Garden	Burnside Gorge Community Association	New wooden surrounds for the allotment gardens 3130 Napier	Placemaking	\$1,800
2019	Rock Bay Concrete Canvas Maps	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Two solar powered illuminated maps 2725 Rock Bay Ave	Placemaking	\$4,500
2019	Sumas St Lending Library	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Little free library in the Sumas/Manchester pocket park	Placemaking	\$815
2019	Cecelia Cove Park Lending Library	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Little free library in the Cecelia Cove park	Placemaking	\$816
2019	Emergency Container Treelane Estates	Burnside Gorge Community Association	New community emergency storage container	Placemaking	\$1,000
2020	Community Garden Fencing	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Upgrade fencing at Cecelia Ravine community garden	Placemaking	\$3,500
2020	Raised food garden beds at Point Ellice House	Vancouver Island Local History Society	New food bearing beds at Point Ellice House	Placemaking	\$3,400
2021	Chown Pl. Outdoor Gathering Space	The Gorge View Society	Bench seating, community notice board, little library pocket	Placemaking	\$5,000
2021	Lexington Park Mural	Lexington Park Strata	Mural installation 649 Bay St	Placemaking	\$5,000

2022	Selkirk Green Community Notice board	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Community notice board near Selkirk Green	Placemaking	\$3,025
2022	Pro Patria Mural	Pro Patria Royal Canadian Legion	Community wall mural 411 Gorge Rd E	Placemaking	\$5,000
2022	Delta Street Blvd. Garden	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Addition of dwarf fruit trees and planters 3133 Delta St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2023	Plant Exchange	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Seed and plant exchange little library 3060 Albany St	Placemaking	\$760
2023	Dunedin Mural	Wiser Development Society	Mural on west side of building 415 Dunedin St	Placemaking	\$7,500
2023	Graeme Busada Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Wall mural 2740 Bridge St	Placemaking	\$7,500
2023	Arbutus Park Platform	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Seating platform in Arbutus Park	Placemaking	\$8,357
2024	Cecelia Ravine Seating project	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Adirondack chairs at Cecelia Ravine Park	Placemaking	\$6,000
2024	Pollinator Garden Project	BCSPCA	Pollinator demonstration garden 3150 Napier Lane	Placemaking	\$1,570
2025	Selkirk Seniors mural	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Mural on 300 block Gorge Rd	Placemaking	\$5,170
				22	\$87,773

A block party grant for Halloween on Washington Ave created a sense of community on this street. This area of the neighbourhood has been rapidly developing which has been fantastic for bringing new families to the street. Previously, Halloween was very quiet and this event launched the first year of pulling neighbours together to make a safe place for kids to go door to door for treats. The Halloween party is now an annual event and it's wonderful.

The Selkirk Winter Festival in Burnside Gorge brought together residents from five separate buildings in the Selkirk neighbourhood for a vibrant celebration. Neighbours collaborated to create a warm and festive atmosphere and gathered to enjoy food and refreshments. What began as a seasonal event has sparked lasting connections among previously isolated residents. Today, these neighbours meet regularly to discuss community issues, organize events year-round and work collectively on safety initiatives and neighbourhood improvements. The sense of belonging is evident - people now greet each other by name during walks through the community, transforming Selkirk from a collection of separate blocks into a connected, supportive neighbourhood.



Clockwise from top left: Washington Ave Halloween, Selkirk Winter Festival, Cecelia Cove little free library and Pro Patria mural

The creation of a lending library at Cecilia Cove Park has fostered community spirit and provided a social gathering spot for residents. The project aimed to encourage literacy for all ages, especially with a Montessori school nearby and inspire future neighbourhood improvement initiatives. Community members played an active role in every stage from building the library, painting it during a community centre event, installing it on-site, to stocking it with books. The finished library has been warmly received, adding a colourful and inviting feature to the street. Residents monitor book inventory, local artists painted murals on the library's blank sides and neighbours have committed to ongoing maintenance. This project not only supports literacy but has strengthened community connections, creating a foundation for continued collaboration and neighbourhood enhancement.

The Pro Patria mural transformed one of the most visible intersections in the neighbourhood. What was once a graffiti-covered wall at Gorge Road and Jutland is now a vibrant landmark that reflects community pride and history. Working together, the community created a stunning mural that celebrates Indigenous heritage and honours the Canadian military. This collaboration didn't just beautify the area - it sparked connections and gave new energy to the neighbourhood. Today, instead of graffiti, visitors and residents are greeted by a colourful, meaningful piece of art that represents resilience and unity.

Downtown

Residents and organizations in the Downtown neighbourhood have received a total of 42 grants - 19 community activity grants, nine community resiliency grants and 25 placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$117,000.

This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor	Brief Description	Category	Grant Received
2017	Creative Placemaking Workshops	Open Space Arts Society	Four placemaking workshops for secondary students and Our Place patrons	Activity	\$1,000
2018	Partnering for Pollinators	Downtown Residents Association	New pollinator structure into the Yates Street garden	Activity	\$1,000
2018	Chinese New Year Street Festival	Downtown Residents Association	Celebration of the opening of the Chinese Community Centre	Activity	\$1,000
2018	Sofa Surprise	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network	A series of pop-up music concerts	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Walk on Film Night	Victoria Independent Film Festival	One day film festival on contemporary urban issues	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Inner Harbour Interactive Storytelling	Harbour Society and Downtown Victoria Business Association	Multi-day volunteer interpreters sharing stories behind Victoria's nautical plaques and historic ships	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Soup Project	Victoria Event Centre	Series of activities to foster connection and learning, with a focus on mental health and nutrition	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Crisis Intervention Workshop	Downtown Residents Association	Pilot workshop for residents and employees to build skills for engaging with the street community	Activity	\$970
2021	Virtual Tea Party	Downtown Residents Association	Online tea party celebrating Chinatown	Activity	\$650
2021	Good Food Gathering	CRFAIR	Gathering of food system advocates, organizations and initiatives in the Capital Regional District	Activity	\$1,100
2022	Music on the Green	Downtown Residents Association	Music concert event on the 1000 block of Pandora Green	Activity	\$1,000
2023	Chinatown Scrub Up	Chinese Canada Museum Society	Clean up and graffiti removal in Chinatown	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Bystander Intervention Training	Downtown Residents Association	2 sessions with community action encouraged	Activity	\$1,500

2023	Reclaim Art Community Program	Victoria Arts Council	Community engagement events alongside an artists' workshop	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Truth and Reconciliation Ride	Bike Victoria Society	Cycling event to support reconciliation on Pow Wow day	Activity	\$1,390
2025	Victoria Street Soccer League	Downtown Residents Association	Street soccer league for marginalized people	Activity	\$1,500
2025	ASIA in Victoria Summer Engagement	Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Society	Karaoke and crafts 2 events	Activity	\$1,500
2025	Accessibility Awareness Poster Campaign	FED Restaurant Society	Poster series on accessibility	Activity	\$600
2025	Puppet workshop	Downtown Residents Association	Public craft event	Activity	\$1,200
				19	\$21,310
2020	Yates St Garden Recovery Project	Downtown Residents Association	Addition of wooden planters outside community garden	Community Resiliency	\$1,500
2021	Comedy Festival	Downtown Residents Association	Street comedy night	Community Resiliency	\$1,500
2021	Our Place COVID response	Our Place Society	Additional cleaning protocol for COVID	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2022	Scrappy Saturday	SUPPLY Victoria Creative Reuse Centre	Free kids art classes using recycled materials	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2023	Shared Recreation Access	Victoria Tool Library Society	Addition of sports and accessibility equipment	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2024	LIFT Brain Injury pilot program	Victoria Brain Injury Society	Pilot program for youth living with brain injuries	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2025	Emergency Resilience in Downtown MRBS	Downtown Residents Association	Emergency preparedness in 3 residential towers	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2025	Seed Library Revival	LifeCycles Projects Society	GVPL Broughton St seed library	Community Resiliency	\$4,862
2025	VICCIR Neighbourhood Healing Pop-Ups	VICCIR	Cultural circles for social connection	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
				9	\$45,362
2016	Yates Street Community Garden	Yates Street Community Garden group	Creation of Yates St community garden	Placemaking	\$5,000
2016	Innovation Tree Lighting	Downtown Victoria Business Association	Interactive tree lighting in Centennial Sq	Placemaking	\$5,000
2016	Edible Streetscape Planters	FED Restaurant Society	Sidewalk food planter boxes 700-800 block Yates and Fort	Placemaking	\$5,000
2016	Shopping Bags Mural	Polychrome Fine Art	Wall mural 940 Fort St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2017	Yates St Community Garden Planters	Downtown Residents Association	Add fencing, tool shed and additional planters	Placemaking	\$4,400

2018	DRA Outreach Project	Downtown Residents Association	Engagement strategy with the purchase of a mobile cargo trike	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Urban Learning Outdoor Livingroom	FED Restaurant Society	Social gathering and garden space in Broughton St Library courtyard	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Make Space Murals	Open Space Arts Society	Wall Mural on Open Space building	Placemaking	\$3,718
2018	Humboldt Pocket Plaza	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network	Street mural painting on Humboldt at Douglas Street	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Yates St Garden Phase 3	Downtown Residents Association	Addition of accessible planters	Placemaking	\$3,594
2019	Food for Thought Planters	FED Restaurant Society	Installation of 12 food plant boxes on 1000-1200 blocks Blanshard Street	Placemaking	\$5,000
2019	Lights of Wonder	Downtown Victoria Business Association	Inaugural Christmas light display in Centennial Square	Placemaking	\$5,000
2019	Waddington Alley Lighting	Downtown Victoria Business Association	Upgrading the overhead lighting in Waddington Alley	Placemaking	\$5,000
2019	Poetry in Public	Victoria Arts Council	Four local poets featured with multilingual poems displayed on large boards at the Bay Centre	Placemaking	\$5,000
2020	Chinatown Interpretive Panels	Victoria Chinatown Museum	Program exploring Chinatown's footprint, history, culture through interpretive panels and small displays	Placemaking	\$5,000
2020	Broad St Lights	Downtown Victoria Business Association	Overhead lighting over the 1000 block of Broad Street	Placemaking	\$5,000
2020	Broad St Placemaking	Gr Victoria Placemaking Network	Addition of seating, planters and a performance stage	Placemaking	\$5,000
2021	Yates St Pollinator Garden	Pollinator Partnership Canada	Boulevard pollinator garden	Placemaking	\$4,860
2021	Francophone Patio Project	Francophone Society of Victoria	Patio space furnishings in Boomerang Court	Placemaking	\$5,000
2023	Yates St Garden Little Library	Downtown Residents Association	Little free library at community garden	Placemaking	\$395
2023	Market Square Mural	Downtown Victoria Business Association	Mural on the east entrance of market square	Placemaking	\$7,220
2024	Yates St mural	Downtown Residents Association	Wall mural at Yates St garden	Placemaking	\$7,500
2024	Government St Parklet	Downtown Victoria Business Association	Addition of plants to new parklet 1800 block Government	Placemaking	\$2,345
2024	Wall Mural	Local Champions	Mural on south wall Crystal Garden 711 Douglas St	Placemaking	\$7,500
2025	Welcome signs project	Cook St Village Activity Centre	Welcome signs in various spots downtown	Placemaking	\$483
				25	\$117,015

The Yates Street Garden was created in 2016 and with three phased grants, the garden has benefited from the initial funding for start-up, fencing, a tool shed and planters (both regular and accessible), a little free library and a pollinator garden. All this has been accomplished through a strong core of volunteers.

In 2024, a beautiful mural added colour, beauty and a sense of belonging to the neighbourhood. Métis, Cree, and Salteaux mural artist Jesse Campbell designed and painted the piece, which he titled *SOWER*. Two open house events were hosted during installation, inviting residents to view the mural up close and learn about the process. After completion, the celebration event brought neighbours together. The mural has strengthened community pride, especially among residents of the building it now adorns.



In 2018 the courtyard at the Greater Victoria Public Library's Central Branch was transformed into a vibrant community space. The project added planters and a harvest table with seating, creating a welcoming area where people could gather, relax, and enjoy the Urban Learning Garden year-round. This revitalization turned a space once used primarily as a shortcut into a destination for connection, learning, and leisure. People routinely use the courtyard to sit, eat, take breaks and explore the gardens and even the on-site security guard has taken a personal interest in maintaining the area, ensuring it remains clean and safe. This project successfully transformed an overlooked space into a vibrant, welcoming hub.



The Chinatown Community Scrub-Up brought together over 50 volunteers who removed garbage from sidewalks, curbs, and parking lots, scrubbed graffiti from building exteriors and cleaned windows along Fisgard, Herald, Pandora, Store, and Government Streets. In partnership with John Adams of *Discover the Past Walking Tours*, they also installed an archival photo of historic Chinatown in one of the exterior windows, adding cultural significance to the project. The benefits were immediate. Removing graffiti and litter restored pride among business owners and residents, while the collaborative effort fostered unity and shared responsibility. The relationships built during this event will have lasting impacts. This project successfully beautified Chinatown and brought the community closer together.



Scrappy Saturdays, an art program for children, encouraged reuse and hands-on activities that promote positive environmental change at home. The program offered simple, replicable projects using household recycled materials and introduced participants to the zero-waste hierarchy. Six instructors engaged youth with thought-provoking questions and shared the history of materials, how they are created, wasted, and ways to reduce waste, empowering participants to think critically and act sustainably. Workshops combined art and environmental education through activities like cardboard loom weaving, styrofoam printmaking, flower pounding, DIY paint brushes, cardboard dollhouses and ornaments. Over 12 months, 184 youth and their families participated, creating a safe, welcoming space that fostered creativity and community. Scrappy Saturdays inspired creativity and climate action while making sustainability fun.

ABOUT THIS CRAFT:

Upcycle waste materials into your very own paintbrushes and create avant-garde works of art.

Fairfield and Gonzales

Residents and organizations in the Fairfield and Gonzales neighbourhoods have received a total of 46 grants - 20 community activity grants, seven community resiliency grants and 19 placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$137,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2017	Birds on Parade	Theatre Inconnu	Puppet workshops	Activity	\$1,000
2017	Celebrating Indigenous Stories	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association Reconciliation Circle	Story telling gatherings focused on Indigenous authors	Activity	\$1,000
2018	Maddison St Block Party	Fairfield Gonzales Neighbourhood Association	Block party for residents of Maddison Street	Activity	\$1,000
2018	Bicycle Music Festival	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	A one day bicycle powered music festival	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Solstice Party	Fairfield United Church	A celebration of the Summer Solstice	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Fairfield Asset Map	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	An asset mapping project for the neighbourhood	Activity	\$1,000
2023	Clover Point Beach Clean Up	Surfrider Foundation Canada Chapters	Beach clean up at Clover Point	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Pickle Me (Local Champions project)	Victoria Community Food Hub Society/CRFAIR	Pickling demo and workshop at Moss St Market	Activity	\$1,100
2023	Gonzales Lantern Festival	Gonzales Community Association	Neighbourhood celebration	Activity	\$1,500
2024	Howe St block party	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,320
2024	Meet A Stranger	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Monthly meet-ups in neighbourhood	Activity	\$1,500
2024	Gonzales Sunset Beach Party	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Community celebration	Activity	\$1,430
2024	Runnymede Ave Block Party	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,500
2024	100 Block Robertson Party	Gonzales Neighbourhood Association	Block party	Activity	\$835
2025	Kind Hearts Club	Let's Talk Health Society	Social connection activity	Activity	\$1,500
2025	Minto St block party	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$950

2025	LC Wildcard Buzz	Between Words Theatre Society	Social capacity interactive info booth	Activity	\$1,500
2025	LC Climate Conversation Zine	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Zine based on Climate change	Activity	\$1,735
2025	AA Autumn Equinox Dance Party	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	All Abilities dance party in Beacon Hill park	Activity	\$1,365
2025	CSVAC 50th Anniversary Celebration	Cook St Village Activity Centre	Community celebration	Activity	\$1,500
					\$25,235
2017	School Supplies program	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	School supplies and clothing for low-income families	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2020	Get Growing Fairfield	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Resource support for Get Growing Program	Community Resiliency	\$4,400
2020	FGCA Neighbourhood Pantry	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Additions to Food Rescue program	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2021	Vimy Place Emergency Preparedness	Building Resilient Neighbours	Emergency planning for Vimy Place	Community Resiliency	\$4,300
2024	Local Champions Climate Change project	Downtown Residents Association	Retrofits for energy savings	Community Resiliency	\$1,600
2025	Open to Conversation	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Social movement to encourage talking to strangers	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2025	Cook St Village food pantry	Cook St Village Activity Centre	Food pantry at seniors centre	Community Resiliency	\$1,700
					\$29,500
2016	Big Wheel Kitchen Garden	Big Wheel / Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Boulevard seating and kitchen garden planters 341 Cook St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2016	Fairfield Food Forest	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Addition of tool shed, bench and pergola in Porter Park	Placemaking	\$4,400
2017	Collinson St Road Mural	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Road mural on Collinson and Cook St (decommissioned)	Placemaking	\$2,765
2017	Charging Cyclist art installation	Cook St Village Business Association	Install cell phone charging station powered by bicycles Cook at Oxford (decommissioned)	Placemaking	\$4,000
2017	Pemberton Park Social Hub	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Installation of public seating and table in Pemberton Park	Placemaking	\$4,757
2017	Leonard Street Emergency Bench	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Community emergency supply bench 1149 Leonard St	Placemaking	\$5,000

2018	Christ Church Lawn Renewal	Christ Church Cathedral	Renewal and fencing replacement of the south lawn (decommissioned)	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Fairfield Unity Panels	Fairfield United Church	Construction hoarding outside the United Church	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Creating Community Cornwall St	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Boulevard garden and seating 600 Block Cornwall	Placemaking	\$3,500
2018	Fairfield Food Forest	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Fencing around the Food Forest in Porter Park	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Olive St Common	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Mural on Emergency Response sea container 100 Olive St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2019	Fairfield Community Pantry	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Installation of a free food pantry at Fairfield Place	Placemaking	\$1,875
2019	Children's garden	Margaret Jenkins Elem	Building a food garden at Ecole Margaret Jenkins school	Placemaking	\$3,930
2020	Maddison St Greenway	Gr Victoria Placemaking Network	Traffic calming with street planters 800 block Maddison	Placemaking	\$5,000
2020	Brighton St Greenway	Gr Victoria Placemaking Network	Traffic calming with street planters on Brighton	Placemaking	\$5,000
2020	Margaret Jenkins school garden Ph 2	Margaret Jenkins PAC	Addition of garden shed to student garden	Placemaking	\$4,965
2021	Reclaiming Clare St	Gr Victoria Placemaking Network	Traffic calming on Clare St	Placemaking	\$4,000
2022	Reimagining Clare St Part 2	Gr Victoria Placemaking Network	Supplemental funds to complete project due to inflation	Placemaking	\$1,000
2023	Camus Scouts community garden	Scouts Canada - Camus Scouts	New community seating and garden space 459 Chester St	Placemaking	\$7,500
					\$82,692

The Surfrider Foundation organized a shoreline cleanup of Clover Point. This project provided an opportunity for volunteers to come out and give back by cleaning up their community, while reducing the amount of trash collecting on our shorelines. They had a successful cleanup, where they collected 36 gallons of trash including treated wood, plastic fragments and cigarette butts.

Residents hosted an inclusive block party on Runnymede Ave. that brought together over 100 neighbours to celebrate the end of summer. They enjoyed live music, games and food, while building connections and community spirit. The party was so successful and well-received they did it again the following year. Several attendees remarked that the party provided an opportunity to have conversations with neighbours that they knew lived nearby but had never had an opportunity to meet and get to know.



Clockwise from top left: Surfrider shoreline clean-up, Runnymede Ave block party, Leonard St emergency supply bench, Reclaiming Claire St.

Neighbours on Leonard Street built an “emergency supply bench” that doubled as a social hub. This inviting bench gave neighbours a place to gather and connect while also storing shared emergency supplies - helping the block prepare for unexpected events. The project was a collaboration between Victoria Ready, the Fairfield Gonzales Neighbourhood Association and Building Resilient Neighbourhoods, working closely with residents to create social infrastructure that strengthened both community ties and emergency readiness. This pilot project grew into a citywide initiative with these neighbourhood hubs expanding across Victoria, with a vision to have at least one in every neighbourhood.

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association added an outdoor food pantry offering free groceries for residents. The pantry offers a place for neighbours to access and/or donate non-perishable goods and personal hygiene products as needed. The general concept is similar to the little free libraries in the community. It also provides an opportunity for neighbours (both adults and children) to take interest in and action against local food insecurity, helping to reduce the stigma associated with it.

The Reclaiming Clare Street Project transformed a small, one-block street into an even stronger urban village. Clare Street, home to a tightly knit community, had long been known for its weekly gatherings and annual block parties. Residents value face-to-face interaction, but the street lacked public green space with a grass verge barely a foot wide. In 2021, neighbours enhanced their sense of place by adding three planter-benches directly on the roadway. These benches introduced greenery, slowed traffic, and created casual gathering spots that encouraged ongoing social connection.

Fernwood

Residents and organizations in the Fernwood neighbourhood have received a total of 63 grants - 20 community activity grants, nine community resiliency grants and 34 placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$185,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor/Applicant	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2017	Inside Out: Workshops and Art Event	Pandora Arts Collective	Workshops and production of an online magazine	Activity	\$1,000
2017	Road Hockey Tournament	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Neighbourhood road hockey tournament	Activity	\$900
2018	Fernwood Square Christmas Music	Fernwood Community Association	Two Christmas events in Fernwood Square	Activity	\$980
2019	Seniors Yoga	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	A series of tea and yoga events for seniors	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Rock Bay Creek Celebration Tour	Fernwood Community Association	Celebration of the Rock Creek interpretive project	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Nurturing Climate Resistant Communities	Compost Education Centre	Free speaker series and community feast on restoration practices that advance Indigenous rights and fight climate change	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Health & Wellness Fair	George Jay Elementary	A health and wellness fair at Ecole George Jay School	Activity	\$1,000
2022	Love your Bike Day	Capital Bike	Bicycle tune-up event for residents in the neighbourhood	Activity	\$500
2022	2200 Belmont Block Party	Fernwood Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,000
2022	GVPN Muralist Forum	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network Society	Discussion of mural creation process with four muralists	Activity	\$500
2022	Fernwood Youth Climate Stewardship	CR FAIR	Workshop series to empower youth re food security	Activity	\$1,000
2023	One Act Play Festival	Between the Words Theatre	A one act play festival in Fernwood	Activity	\$1,500
2023	NRG Harvest Celebration	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Community celebration	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Central SOCA	Central School	Series of activities for Grade 6 and 7/8 Students of Colour groups	Activity	\$1,500

2024	Trans Pride Community Picnic	Resonance Collective Society	Trans community festival	Activity	\$1,500
2024	Fernwood Play Streets	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Series of block parties	Activity	\$1,445
2024	Rudlin Street party	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Block party	Activity	\$1,500
2025	Fernwood Cat Tour	Fernwood Community Arts Association	Walking tour to visit local cats	Activity	\$1,500
2025	Empress Ave block party	Fernwood Community Arts Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,500
2025	Ears to the Ground	Fernwood Community Arts Association	Storytelling event	Activity	\$1,500
					\$23,325
2021	Get Growing Fernwood	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Get Growing program for Fernwood	Community Resiliency	\$4,250
2022	Princess St Resiliency Project	Table Missionary Society	Emergency materials and block coordination program	Community Resiliency	\$2,986
2022	FCA Art Gallery	Fernwood Community Association	New gallery program with ongoing exhibits and monthly forums	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2022	Fernwood Then and Now Project	Fernwood Community Association	People of Fernwood photography project	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2022	Fernwood Community Fridge	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Community fridge	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2023	Seedy Sunday	Compost Education Centre	Exchange of seeds and educational sessions	Community Resiliency	\$4,850
2024	Youth Jam Music Workshops	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Music workshops for youth	Community Resiliency	\$7,425
2025	Fernwood Community Garden	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Rebuild community gardens	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2025	Creative Death Literacy Gatherings	Fernwood Community Arts Association	Discussions about all facets of death & dying	Community Resiliency	\$1,810
					\$43,821
2016	The Welcoming Watershed	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Construction of a garden shed, irrigation and a bike rack in Springridge Common garden space	Placemaking	\$5,000
2016	Lighting Up Fernwood Square	Belfry Theatre	Overhead lighting in Fernwood Square	Placemaking	\$3,490

2016	Naturalized Playspace Phase 2	Central Middle School	Naturalized playspace 1280 Fort St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2016	Welcoming Pole	George Jay School	Carving and installation of a welcoming totem pole at the entrance to the school	Placemaking	\$5,000
2017	Gladstone Overhead Lighting	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Upgrading of a temporary catenary light installation	Placemaking	\$3,300
2017	Rock Bay Creek Revival II	Fernwood Community Association	Installation of interpretive signage to provide information on the path of Rock Bay Creek which flowed through Blackwood Green and Alexander Park	Placemaking	\$5,000
2017	Butterfly Project	Fernwood Community Association	Installation of several butterfly garden habitat features in Fernwood Community Centre	Placemaking	\$3,500
2017	Coast Salish Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Painting and celebration of a mural in the gymnasium of Fernwood Community Centre	Placemaking	\$3,250
2018	Denman St Little Library	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Little free library 1264 Denman St	Placemaking	\$485
2018	Children's Native Plant Garden	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Development of a children's garden at the Fernwood Community Centre	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Grant St Emergency Connect	SHIFT Collaborative	Construction of a residents' emergency supply 1300 Grant St	Placemaking	\$2,000
2018	Grant St Gardens Traffic Calming	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Planting of two curb extensions with native species 1300 Grant St	Placemaking	\$1,133
2018	Solar Power Demo	Compost Education Centre	Installation of a solar powered irrigation pump and demonstration workshops	Placemaking	\$2,000
2019	George Jay Mural	George Jay PAC	A mural on the Cook Street side of the school	Placemaking	\$2,070
2019	NRG Garden Revitalization	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Reconstruction of a food garden in front of the community centre	Placemaking	\$5,000
2019	First Nations Boulevard Garden	Mitraniketan Housing COOP	Native planting of a boulevard and part of the common's property 1240 Balmoral	Placemaking	\$2,450
2019	Grant St Little Library	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Little free library 1304 Grant St	Placemaking	\$630
2019	Village on the Green Emergency kit	Shift Collaborative	Creation of a community emergency kit for 1132 Johnson St	Placemaking	\$1,500

2020	Food Dehydrator	Compost Education Centre	Building a food dehydrator at the centre	Placemaking	\$2,700
2020	Cornerstone Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Wall mural on Cornerstone building	Placemaking	\$4,000
2020	Lifecycles Haultain Boulevard Garden	Lifecycles	Haultain Boulevard Garden	Placemaking	\$2,700
2020	Earthbound Gardens Enhancement	Fernwood Community Association	Earthbound Garden Improvements	Placemaking	\$3,061
2020	Stanley St Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Street Mural and Block Party	Placemaking	\$4,000
2021	Vining St Mural & Boulevard Garden	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Mural and boulevard garden in the laneway	Placemaking	\$2,000
2021	Pandora Arts Little Gallery	Pandora Arts Collective	Little art gallery to go in FCA building	Placemaking	\$328
2021	Rise Health Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Mural on Rise Health building Fernwood at Bay St	Placemaking	\$2,850
2021	Harris Green Placemaking	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Picnic table, little library and bird house in the 1100 block Harris Green park	Placemaking	\$5,000
2022	Central School Pollinator Garden	Central Middle School	Boulevard gardens adjacent to Central Middle School	Placemaking	\$5,000
2022	Chambers Boulevard Garden	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Creation of a community boulevard garden Chambers at Queens Ave	Placemaking	\$2,300
2023	Queen's Chambers Furniture Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Mural painting on concrete street furniture Chambers St at Queens	Placemaking	\$2,030
2023	Fernwood NRG Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Mural adjacent to children's outdoor area at community centre	Placemaking	\$7,430
2023	Gower Park Placemaking	Fernwood Community Association	Picnic Table, platform, planters and sign in Gower Park	Placemaking	\$5,000
2025	Portraits of Fernwood	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Outdoor Art Exhibit at the centre	Placemaking	\$7,500
2025	Little Fernwood Alley mural	Fernwood Community Arts Association	Wall mural in Little Fernwood alley	Placemaking	\$6,850
					\$118,557



During Love Your Bike Day, residents created a community-friendly space for folks living in and around Grant Street to connect and learn more about bicycle repair. With the funding, they were able to hire an experienced bicycle mechanic and provide tools and materials so that people could learn how to do their own basic bike repairs on their own. There was food, prizes and lots of fun as neighbours learned a new skill and spent time socializing with each other.



Following the transformation of grass into native plant gardens, residents created an outdoor living room of coloured painted concrete furniture, adjacent to the boulevard garden. They were able to transform this rather non-descript area into a beautiful green meeting place for people on walks through the neighbourhood or for children and parents meeting after school. There have been many compliments about this area and the locals are always delighted to see people using it.

What was once a neglected park has become a welcoming hub for connection and nature. A round, accessible picnic table was built and installed in Gower Park as the centerpiece of this transformation. To celebrate local creativity, a beautiful mural painted by neighbours was attached to the tabletop, turning it into a work of art. Beside the table, new planters filled with pollinator-friendly plants were added, inviting bees and butterflies to thrive. Nestled under the shade of mature trees, the park now offers a cool, inviting space for people to gather. This revitalized area has become more than just a park; it's a place for neighbours to connect, share stories and reduce loneliness, all while enjoying the beauty of nature. What started as a small project has grown into a symbol of community pride and resilience.



Fernwood Play Streets is a growing community event that children and families in Fernwood and North Park are getting to know and love. Camosun St. between Grant St. and Balmoral St. gets shut down four times a year in the summer to make it a safe place for neighbourhood children to play. Residents create inclusive, accessible and free, family-friendly events for and with their community. Multi-generational play, crafts, and food create so many opportunities for the community to connect. Receiving a grant enabled Play Streets to become sustainable and an organizing committee, made up of neighbourhood parent formed. Residents were able to purchase art supplies, face paints, tables, market tents

and other materials that are now used year after year. Both the grant and sharing the load had a lovely revitalization effect on Fernwood Play Streets, an annual series of weekends intended to stay.

Hillside/Quadra

Residents and organizations in the Hillside/Quadra neighbourhood have received a total of 29 grants - nine community activity grants, eight community resiliency grants and 12 placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$82,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2017	Bike clinics for kids	Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition	Bike clinics for kids aged 3-6	Activity	\$930
2017	Victoria Bicycle Music Festival	Quadra Village Community Association	A cycle powered music festival	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Peoples Apothecary Summer Herbal Workshops	Quadra Village Community Association	Workshops on herbal wellness	Activity	\$450
2019	Singing in the Streets	Quadra Village Community Association	Neighbourhood block party with local musicians	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Scare on McNair	Quadra Village Community Association	Neighbourhood Halloween party	Activity	\$1,000
2021	Graham St block party	Dance Victoria	Block party	Activity	\$950
2024	Vaiski Celebration	Khalsa Diwan Society	Neighbourhood celebration	Activity	\$1,500
2024	Market Court Strata Party	Quadra Village Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$425
2024	LC Your Neighbourhood Friend	Khalsa Diwan Society	Resource guide for newcomers	Activity	\$1,050
				9	\$8,305
2023	Mother Tongue	Intercultural Association	ESL cooking classes	Community Resiliency	\$1,500
2024	Bike Lending Library	Victoria Bike Society	Bike lending library	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2020	Communities in Motion	Victoria Bike Society	Bike skills webinars and community mural	Community Resiliency	\$4,488
2020	HQ Parklet Furnishings	Quadra Village Community Association	Parklet furnishings on Kings Road	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2020	Community Food Support program	Quadra Village Community Association	Collection and distribution of food hampers	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2021	Get Growing Plus	Quadra Village Community Association	Seedling distribution, gardening resources +	Community Resiliency	\$2,000

2022	Neighbours helping Neighbours	Red Cedar Comm. Assn.	Peer to peer training & community advocacy	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2022	Community garden food production	Quadra Village Community Association	Mulch/compost and soil for community food garden	Community Resiliency	\$1,000
				8	\$31,488
2017	Quadra Village Neighbourhood mural	Glenlyon Norfolk School	Community mural at the old school 950 Kings Rd.	Placemaking	\$3,980
2017	Wark St Commons revitalization	Quadra Village Community Association	Clean up and replanting as well as identification signage	Placemaking	\$768
2018	GVCC Portable Bike stunts	GV Cycling Coalition	Portable stunts for bike lessons 950 Kings	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Quadra Elem. Garden	SD61	Outdoor tables in the Quadra Elem school garden	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Quadra Village Pollinator Garden	Quadra Village Community Association	Pollinator friendly plantings in Wark Street Commons.	Placemaking	\$4,975
2019	Wark St Commons Improvements	Quadra Village Community Association	Repaint existing kiosk and add a mosaic and plant map of the garden	Placemaking	\$2,967
2020	Gaga ball play area	Quadra Village Community Association	Gaga ball play area at Quadra Elem school	Placemaking	\$5,000
2021	Wark Community library	Quadra Village Community Association	Little free library Wark St at Kings	Placemaking	\$600
2021	Alter Arts Society Mural Fest	Alter Arts Society	Quadra Village mural festival	Placemaking	\$5,000
2022	Quadra Village Court Beautification	Quadra Village Community Association	Mural on basketball retaining wall	Placemaking	\$935
2023	Holistic Medicine Community Clinic	Quadra Village Community Association	Holistic medicinal garden beds	Placemaking	\$7,500
2023	Youth Pride Mural	Quadra Village Community Association	Rainbow steps leading to youth centre at community centre	Placemaking	\$1,000
				12	\$42,725



The Quadra Village Community Centre had a vibrant Pride mural painted on the stairs outside its youth centre, a project led and designed by local youth. Featuring the rainbow colours, the mural symbolizes diversity, inclusivity and belonging within the community. The bright colours have transformed the space into a welcoming and visually engaging area, fostering warmth and acceptance. Youth participants described the experience as fun and meaningful, with many eager to expand the artwork in the future. The QueerVCC program has received heartfelt compliments, with community members appreciating the visibility and affirmation the mural provides to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. This initiative has not only enhanced the physical environment but also strengthened connections, creating a sense of pride and unity for all who visit the centre.



In the spring of 2024 the Quadra Village Gurdwara hosted a vibrant Vaisakhi celebration that drew a record-breaking crowd of over 3,000 attendees. The event fostered strong community connections, with many praising it as an excellent opportunity for relationship building. Leading up to the celebration, over 100

neighbours received boxes of treats and invitations, creating excitement and engagement. On the day, two dozen congregation members welcomed guests with samples of traditional Indian cuisine, including mini samosas, pakoras, and chickpea dahl. Using grant funds, the Gurdwara purchased essential groceries to prepare a delicious lunch, serving more than 2,000 meals in the langar hall—a remarkable achievement by the women’s group. Guests enjoyed turban-tying demonstrations and learned about Sikh traditions, sparking curiosity and appreciation. The event’s success inspired calls for an even larger multicultural celebration the following year.

In October 2021, a Little Free Library was installed at Wark Park to provide accessible books in a neighbourhood with limited public library access and many families, newcomers and multi-family dwellings. The goal was to create an inclusive, interactive space with a focus on children's books and titles in languages other than English. The library's thoughtful design includes multiple tiers for easy reach and a paved surface for accessibility.

Illustrations were used instead of words for clear communication. Donations from the Victoria Intercultural Association have helped maintain a diverse collection, and books - especially children's titles - move quickly. A small seed library was added, which is popular though rarely replenished. The library has become a vibrant gathering spot, registered on local and international Little Free Library maps. With minimal maintenance and no vandalism, it continues to foster community connection and literacy every day.



Community Food Support set out to provide weekly grocery hampers to food-insecure individuals and families across Greater Victoria. At the time of their grant application, the program served approximately 65 households weekly; today, that number has grown to about 80. As a community-driven mutual aid initiative, residents are involved at every stage - volunteering to sort hampers, deliver groceries, and support operations. Many volunteers return month after month, creating a strong sense of community and shared purpose. The program now boasts over 400 volunteers and continues to attract new participants. Recipients express gratitude for the free delivery service and many sign up for consecutive weeks. Demand for hampers remains high, and the program's companion project - a community fridge in Rock Bay - has also been well-received. Community Food Support exemplifies how grassroots efforts can strengthen neighbourhood connections while addressing food insecurity.



James Bay

Residents and organizations in the James Bay neighbourhood have received a total of 23 grants - eight community activity grants, three community resiliency grants and 12 placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$68,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor/Applicant	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2018	James Bay Happy Hour	James Bay Community School	Friday Night family games and potluck	Activity	\$1,000
2018	Victoria Health Co-op Café	Victoria Health Cooperative	A series of educational workshops on the benefits of co-ops	Activity	\$1,000
2018	James Bay Good Neighbour Festival	James Bay Neighbourhood Association and James Bay New Horizons	A public celebration in Irving Park for James Bay residents	Activity	\$1,000
2021	Post Pandemic Party	Atomic Vaudeville	Art and event celebrating post pandemic	Activity	\$1,000
2022	James Bay Art Walk	Carr House	Art walk in James Bay neighbourhood	Activity	\$1,000
2023	Trees in James Bay	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Planting 16 trees through Trees in City challenge	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Kids and Dads Lego Club	James Bay Community School Centre	New Kids and Dad Lego club	Activity	\$1,300
2025	Jane's Walk James Bay	Victoria Heritage Society	9 tours of James Bay	Activity	\$1,500
				8	\$9,300
2020	JBNH Food Security for Seniors	James Bay New Horizons	Expansion of food program to include fresh produce from local farmers	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2020	JBNA Wee free seed box expansion	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Increasing access and skills for food growing in James Bay	Community Resiliency	\$2,550
2021	JBNA Recycle Saturday	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Monthly recycling depot	Community Resiliency	\$4,100
				3	\$11,650
2016	James Bay Bee and Pollinator Commons Garden	James Bay New Horizons	Installation of pollinator garden in Irving Park	Placemaking	\$5,000
2017	Fisherman's Wharf Mural	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Installation of wall mural on retaining wall at Fisherman's Wharf	Placemaking	\$3,675
2017	Michigan St Gathering Place	James Bay United Church	Installation of boulevard benches and garden	Placemaking	\$5,000
2017	Little Gardeners Playspace	James Bay Community Project	Children's garden and playspace	Placemaking	\$5,000

2017	Lewis St Historical Plaques	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Installation of historical plaques 100 block of Lewis St	Placemaking	\$766
2018	Pilot Street Emergency Prep	BC Healthy Communities	Building a community toolshed on Pilot St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Lewis St Park Little Library	Greater Victoria Placemaking Society	Installation of little free library in Lewis St park	Placemaking	\$615
2019	Little Seed Library	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Creation of a seed box and garden corner of Michigan and Menzies	Placemaking	\$1,200
2020	Fisherman's Wharf Community Garden	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Enhancement of edible garden space in Fisherman's Wharf park	Placemaking	\$5,000
2021	Birdcage Community Corner	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Boulevard project on Michigan @ Government	Placemaking	\$5,000
2023	Montreal St Allotment	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Addition of raised beds for accessible gardens in Montreal St allotment garden	Placemaking	\$3,700
2024	Gnome Homes - Fisherman's Wharf	Greater Victoria Harbour Authority	Creation of six floating gnome homes at Fisherman's Wharf	Placemaking	\$7,420
				12	\$47,376



In 2018 the James Bay United Church transformed its under-used front yard into a welcoming public gathering space for residents. The goal was to provide a place where neighbours could sit, enjoy a coffee, chat and rest while visiting the thrift shop or nearby services. The project quickly became a shared community effort. Residents pitched in to clean up the site, offered design ideas and even engaged a local artist to craft custom benches. Volunteers prepared and planted garden beds, while members of New Horizons contributed mulch, wheeling it across the street to complete the landscaping. The result is a beautiful, inviting space that has been embraced by a wide range of James Bay residents. This collaborative project not only revitalized a neglected area but also strengthened community pride and connection, proof that shared vision and teamwork can create something truly special.



A group of young dads created a dedicated space for neighbourhood kids and dads or male caregivers to spend meaningful time together. The initiative aimed to strengthen family bonds and foster peer connections among dads. Weekly sessions were organized at an accessible location where children and their dads could enjoy creative play with LEGO® while dads connected in a relaxed, welcoming environment. The project delivered far-reaching benefits. It provided a special place for shared play, encouraged community-building, and even inspired the organizers' own children by showing how an idea can become reality. This initiative not only strengthened family relationships but also sparked a sense of community-mindedness.

James Bay hosted its first community-wide picnic in Irving Park. Organized by a collaborative committee of the neighbourhood association, James Bay United Church, local businesses, and the seniors centre, the picnic was a true community effort. The City's low-cost event furniture rental and the proximity of James Bay New Horizons provided essential support for logistics, power and storage. Local businesses contributed generously with food, beverages, financial aid, and on-site displays, while volunteers from the United Church managed food service. The day began with a spiritual gathering, followed by a First Nations welcome, lively music, children's activities, and everything offered free of charge. The highlight for many was the firefighters' visit, complete with a fire truck and water hoses—pure joy for the kids! Attendance exceeded expectations, and glowing feedback inspired a follow-up picnic in August 2022, led by James Bay United Church.



The James Bay Neighbourhood Association partnered with artist consultant Cameron Kidd to transform the retaining wall at Fisherman's Wharf into a vibrant mural. Kidd guided the design and painting process with different groups of children starting with immigrant and refugee children from the Intercultural Association's day camp, who enthusiastically painted shapes with remarkable precision as part of their camp activities. Later, youth volunteers aged 17–20 from Volunteer Victoria joined in, eager to contribute to a neighbourhood project. Students from two local elementary schools explored mural concepts and were invited to the celebration event upon completion. This collaborative effort not only beautified a public space but also fostered inclusion, creativity and community pride.



The Wee Free Seed Box and garden aimed to beautify the village core, promote gardening, and create a friendly space for neighbours to connect. A drought-tolerant garden was installed at the busy Michigan and Menzies intersection, converting worn grass into a vibrant, eco-friendly space that offers year-round interest and environmental benefits. Alongside the garden, a seed box was introduced, allowing residents to exchange seeds and gardening magazines. The box quickly became a hub of conversation and sharing over 500 seed packets circulated in the first three weeks. From families picking beans to seniors adding flowers to balcony pots, the project sparked joy, biodiversity, and neighbourliness. This simple idea has grown into a thriving community resource that continues to inspire local gardeners. Volunteers continue to save and sort seeds, packaging and filling the seed box weekly.

Jubilee

Residents and organizations in the Jubilee neighbourhood have received a total of 14 grants - three community activity grants, four community resiliency grants and seven placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$48,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2017	Building Community Connections	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Weekend workshops alongside Recycling Saturday	Activity	\$1,000
2019	South Jubilee Summer Festival	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Neighbourhood celebration in Redfern Park	Activity	\$1,000
2025	Newton St. block party	North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,500
				3	\$3,500
2024	Cool Kit tree planting	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Residential tree planting	Community Resiliency	\$3,500
2024	NJNA asset map	North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Asset map of neighbourhood	Community Resiliency	\$1,350
2020	SJNA Get Growing program	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Education and supplies for growing food in South Jubilee	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2021	Parents 4 Climate Tree planting	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Native and Fruit Tree planting in Jubilee	Community Resiliency	\$3,000
				4	\$12,850
2016	Spirit Garden 20th Year Renewal	North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Rejuvenation of the Spirit Garden	Placemaking	\$5,000
2016	South Jubilee Mobile Centre	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Pop up community centre trailer	Placemaking	\$5,000
2017	Leighton Heritage Walk	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	New heritage signage on Leighton St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2021	SJNA Rebellion mural	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Wall mural on Rebellion Barbershop	Placemaking	\$3,000
2022	Redfern Commons	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Soil and plants in new community garden	Placemaking	\$5,000
2023	Redfern Park Covered Seating	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Seating in Redfern Commons	Placemaking	\$7,500
2025	Spirit Garden chairs	North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Chairs for the Spirit Garden	Placemaking	\$2,000
				7	\$32,500

After two years of planning and hundreds of volunteer hours, volunteers transformed an unused grassy area between a dog park and playground into a vibrant community space. Redfern Park Commons was driven by the generosity of local residents who contributed time, materials and skills. The revitalized space features pollinator plants, a bee house, covered seating areas with games tables, a sunny rock seating area, and a raised vegetable demonstration garden. Designed to foster connection and provide a place of respite, the Commons became a welcoming place for people of all ages to gather, interact, and enjoy nature. The project exemplified collaboration and creativity resulting in a thriving hub for social interaction.

In 2017, the Spirit Garden underwent a significant revitalization to enhance safety, accessibility and community engagement. The pathway was restored with sight lines reestablished, creating a safer and more welcoming environment. Public consultations, including an ice-cream social fostered community input. New seating was installed and a custom-built double-sized cedar Little Library was added. The old bocce ball court was opened up as a flexible space for events and a meadow area and four-seasons garden were created to support gatherings and seasonal beauty. Partnerships with local organizations strengthened community ties, and volunteer efforts focused on cultivating a gardening culture. Wildlife sightings, including hummingbirds, added to the garden's renewed charm.

The North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association (NJNA) created a hand-drawn map to showcase the area's sights and hidden gems through a creative, community-focused lens. The project highlighted beloved local features such as little free libraries, parks, gardens, pathways, shady trees and welcoming benches - elements that reflect the neighbourhood's unique character. Community engagement included two neighbourhood walks bringing residents together to share stories, explore green spaces and strengthen connections. The map represents collective input and pride, celebrating the charm of the neighbourhood in a meaningful way.

South Jubilee addressed the lack of a permanent community centre by creating a moveable pop-up centre designed for use anywhere in the neighbourhood. This project involved the purchase of a utility trailer, tables, chairs, popup tents and a BBQ, providing both a social hub and permanent storage for Recycle Saturday equipment. Since its launch, the trailer has supported monthly recycling events, where residents enjoyed food such as barbecued perogies, hot cider and pastries, encouraging social interaction. The setup also enabled community engagement activities, including a BC Transit information session and neighbourhood street parties. By offering flexible, mobile infrastructure, the project has created new opportunities for residents to gather, connect and celebrate, while simplifying logistics for volunteers. The initiative has been highly successful, inspiring residents to plan their own street events and reinforcing South Jubilee's sense of community.



Clockwise from top left: Redfern Park Commons, Spirit Garden revitalization, North Jubilee map, South Jubilee pop-up community centre

North Park

Residents and organizations in the North Park neighbourhood have received a total of 21 grants - eight community activity grants, six community resiliency grants and seven placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$68,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2018	North Park Festival	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Neighbourhood festival held in conjunction with the Harbour Cats home opener at Royal Athletic Park	Activity	\$1,000
2018	North Park Outreach Campaign/Membership Drive	North Park Neighbourhood Association	A neighbourhood outreach campaign for the residents' association	Activity	\$1,000
2020	Mobile Hygiene Access project	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Providing homeless residents of North Park with access to free hygienic products	Activity	\$1,000
2022	North Park Health and Wellness Fair	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre	Open air event on 1000 block of North Park Street	Activity	\$1,000
2022	North Park Skate Festival	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Combined multicultural festival and free public skate	Activity	\$1,000
2025	North Park Block Party	Third Place Community Arts Club	Block party	Activity	\$1,500
2025	North Park Open Mic Nights	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Open Mic gatherings	Activity	\$1,500
2025	North Park Repair cafe	MakeSpace Society	Opening a repair cafe	Activity	\$1,500
				8	\$9,500
2020	Accessible Recreation for NP Residents	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Matching low income residents with programming taking place in the North Park neighbourhood	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2020	Slahal (Bones) Game	Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness	Transformation of parking lot to garden gathering space	Community Resiliency	\$2,800
2021	Supply Creative Re-use Pop Up Shop	Victoria Supply Creative Reuse Society (DBA SUPPLY Victoria)	Pop-up shop to provide the community access to free second-hand art supplies	Community Resiliency	\$4,946
2022	North Park - Day in the Life	North Park Neighbourhood Association	A video celebrating community life in a neighbourhood	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2024	Build Community Build Homes	Housing Justice Project	Educational workshops for housed/unhoused people	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2025	Resilience Hub	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Resilience hub	Community Resiliency	\$7,500

				6	\$32,746
2017	North Park Green community garden	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Creation of a commons garden of native species in Franklin Green 1045 Mason St	Placemaking	\$3,000
2017	Community mural	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Wall mural 1803 Cook St with a design motif being developed for North Park Village	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Princess St Words Mosaic	Quadra Village Community Association	A mosaic on a residential fence at 800 block Princess Ave	Placemaking	\$2,200
2019	Franklin Green Bike Loop	North Park Neighbourhood Association	Addition of a child-friendly bike elements to an existing pathway in Franklin Green	Placemaking	\$2,250
2021	Tiny Homes Village Mural	Coalition to End Homelessness	Installation of a mural in the Tiny Homes Village at Royal Athletic Park parking lot	Placemaking	\$5,000
2021	Our WorkPlace Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Wall mural at Our Place Society Employment Centre	Placemaking	\$2,750
2025	Compost Education Centre AIR	Compost Education Centre	Street mural, fencing and table adornment 1216 North Park St	Placemaking	\$6,375
				7	\$26,575



In 2020, the Mobile Hygiene Project (MHAP) provided essential hygiene kits and water to unsheltered individuals in the North Park area, operating approximately 12–15 hours per week. Kits included soap, band-aids, deodorant, toothbrushes, and feminine hygiene products. With support from SOLID, the project also distributed harm reduction items such as Narcan spray and shared resource handouts. Community involvement was remarkable: parents assembled kits with their children, a teacher adopted MHAP as a class project, and local businesses donated supplies, including hand sanitizer, dental products and socks. Seniors contributed knitted blankets and toques. One of the most impactful experiences was participating in Indigenous-led talking circles at Central Park, where unhoused individuals, homeowners,

renters, bylaw officers, and volunteers collaborated to develop solutions and build trust. The project strengthened relationships, promoted inclusivity and highlighted the importance of consulting unhoused individuals as equal partners in addressing homelessness.



In December 2022, the North Park Neighbourhood Association hosted a free Multicultural Festival and Neighbourhood Free Skate at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre, aiming to reduce barriers by covering skate rental costs. The event was a success, attracting strong participation from both vendors and skaters. Over 40 vendors showcased cultural diversity, while a kids’ activity station offered button-making crafts focused on sports. Approximately 300 community members rented skates from the City of Victoria skate shop, with others bringing their own. The festival grew out of community requests for events celebrating Victoria’s diversity, building

on previous successes such as the Eid Bazaar in 2021. In partnership with the Mosque, NPNA had previously hosted two multicultural events in 2021 and four in 2022, featuring vendors from neighbourhoods across Victoria. The December event reinforced inclusivity, cultural exchange and community connection, drawing attendees from across the city.

The Culturally Supportive House on Mason St successfully transformed its front parking lot into a dedicated space for ongoing cultural activities. The project centered on creating an area to host Slahal, also known as Lahal, a traditional Indigenous game with deep cultural significance among Coast Salish and Kwakwaka’wakw communities. Historically used to resolve disputes and strengthen spiritual connections, Slahal is now played as an inclusive activity for all ages, accompanied by songs, drumming, and laughter. The initiative included purchasing six sets of bones, six sets of sticks, and two large cedar benches, which residents helped paint as part of a collaborative art activity. This space now serves as a gathering place for Indigenous Street Community members and neighbours, fostering cultural exchange and relationship-building.



Working in partnership with City Artist in Residence Luke Ramsey, the North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA) expanded its neighbourhood branding initiative by adding a mural to the WIN building on Cook Street. This extension continued the distinctive orange “story line” and color palette introduced earlier, enhancing visual identity and sense of place in North Park. Planning and implementation involved members of the NPNA Communications Committee and local businesses, while broader community engagement occurred through an online voting process to select banner designs. Input was also sought from the Fernwood Community Association, as the mural site lies within both neighbourhoods. This second phase built on the success of the WIN/Logan’s mural, adding human-scale color

and vibrancy to an auto-dominant streetscape. The project reinforced North Park’s identity as an urban village and generated excitement and pride among residents and visitors.



The Caledonia Tiny Homes Village was a transitional housing community of 30 tiny homes built from repurposed shipping containers. The mural project aimed to integrate the village into the North Park neighbourhood while fostering pride and warmth for residents. This was achieved through vibrant mural art added to the otherwise plain sea cans. Four ideation sessions in July engaged residents in shaping the designs, exploring colour choices and aspirations. Based on this input, three distinct murals were created by local artists, whose work was later extended to the Royal Athletic Park, continuing the theme and brightening an underused corner. The murals' uplifting colours promote a welcoming atmosphere and sense of belonging.

Oaklands

Residents and organizations in the Oaklands neighbourhood have received a total of 42 grants - 16 community activity grants, five community resiliency grants and 21 placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$131,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2019	Creekside Concert	Friends of Bowker Creek	An outdoor concert/block party in support of Bowker Creek.	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Clothing Swap and Native Plant Sale	Oaklands Community Association	Free event with upcycled clothing swap, native plant sale, and DIY workshops on mending and tailoring	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Asquith St newsletter	Oaklands Community Association	The development of a newsletter for 2600 block Asquith Street residents	Activity	\$270
2021	Oaklands School Totem Raising	School District 61	Raising of the totem pole and ceremony	Activity	\$1,000
2021	Clawthorpe St block party	Oaklands Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,000
2021	Myrtle Block Party	Oaklands Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,000
2022	Celebrating Neighbourhood Culture	Oak Bay Kiwanis Health Care Society	Neighbourhood music festival	Activity	\$1,000
2022	Community Feedback Learning and Sharing	Oak Bay Kiwanis Health Care Society	Neighbourhood survey and gathering	Activity	\$1,000
2022	Neighbourhood Gathering	Oak Bay Kiwanis Health Care Society	Neighbourhood gathering	Activity	\$1,000
2023	Community Live Music BBQ	Oaklands Community Association	Block party with live music, BBQ and market	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Oaklands Bystander Intervention Training	Oaklands Community Association	Training sessions to mitigate racism	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Carnival Celebration Connection 2024	Oaklands Community Association	Celebration event for Trinidad and Tobago community	Activity	\$1,500
2024	Oswald Garden party	Oaklands Community Association	Celebration for community garden	Activity	\$1,307

2025	Poutine Fest 2025: A celebration of fusions	Gender Generations Project	Multicultural food event	Activity	\$1,145
2025	2SLGBTQIA+ Choir	Oaklands Community Association	Singing workshop and performance	Activity	\$1,500
2025	LFL Festival	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network	Celebration workshop for 1000 Little Free Library	Activity	\$1,500
				16	\$18,222
2020	Seedlings and Supplies	Oaklands Community Association	Providing essential planting supplies for low-income residents	Community Resiliency	\$1,360
2021	Gosworth Street Community mural	Oaklands Community Association	Community mural	Community Resiliency	\$2,000
2025	Queer Crafternoon	Oaklands Community Association	Craft workshops for queer and trans folks	Community Resiliency	\$3,750
2022	Oswald Park Green Team Stewardship	Charity Green Teams of Canada	Stewardship educational program for Oswald Community Garden	Community Resiliency	\$4,000
2024	Oaklands Outdoor Art	Oaklands Community Association	Inventory of outdoor art	Community Resiliency	\$1,210
				5	\$12,320
2016	Mobile Community Resource and Tool Shed	Oaklands Community Association	The creation of a mobile tool cart for use in the community.	Placemaking	\$5,000
2017	Community Centre Courtyard upgrade	Oaklands Community Association	Creation of an outdoor programmable space at the community centre 2827 Belmont Ave	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Oaklands Community Garden	Oaklands Community Association	New community garden in the Oaklands neighbourhood	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Oaklands Elem Totem Project	School District 61	Welcoming totem pole on Oaklands Elementary school grounds.	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Oaklands Park Safety	Oaklands Community Association	A pocket place for seating near Oaklands Park.	Placemaking	\$3,000
2019	Hillside Ave murals	Oaklands Community Association	Three themed murals on retaining walls on 1313 Hillside Ave.	Placemaking	\$5,000
2019	Park Signs Project	Oaklands Community Association	The replacement of interpretive historical signs within the Oaklands neighbourhood	Placemaking	\$4,985
2019	Wallbran Mural	Oaklands Community Association	A woodland themed mural and public bench at 2665 Belmont Ave	Placemaking	\$5,000

2019	Xeriscaping	Oaklands Community Association	Terraced drought resistant plantings on Capital Heights boulevard	Placemaking	\$3,105
2019	Ryan Street Mural	Oaklands Community Association	Street mural in front of Oaklands Elementary.	Placemaking	\$2,000
2019	Oaklands Park Playbox	Oaklands Community Association	Addition of a playbox filled with toys and sports equipment to Oaklands Park	Placemaking	\$5,000
2020	Re-Imagining a People Priority Street	Oak Bay Kiwanis Health Care Society	Traffic calming on Kings Rd/Cedar Hill/Mt Stephen	Placemaking	\$2,551
2021	Eden Barbershop Mural	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Mural installed on east facing wall of Eden Barbershop in Haultain Village	Placemaking	\$3,400
2021	Oakland Rise bench	Oak Bay Kiwanis Health Care Society	Creation of original, live-edge oak benches for installation along the Kings Rd. greenway	Placemaking	\$5,000
2022	Xeriscaping Phase 2	Oak Bay Health Care Society	Phase two of Xeriscaping demonstration gardens on Kings St.	Placemaking	\$5,000
2022	Street Art	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network	Mandalas painted on residential street intersections Mt Stephens and Kings Rd	Placemaking	\$5,000
2022	Oaklands Green Refresh	Oaklands Community Association	Upgrade and refresh of natural areas in Oaklands Green	Placemaking	\$5,000
2023	Oaklands Rise Pergola	Oaklands Community Association	Boulevard pergola for shaded seating/gathering 2703 Fernwood Rd	Placemaking	\$7,500
2024	Truth and Reconciliation mural	Oaklands Community Association	Wall mural on community centre	Placemaking	\$7,500
2024	LC Oaklands Sea can mural	1Up Single Parent Resource Centre	Mural on 2 sides of sea can in Oaklands Park	Placemaking	\$6,600
2024	Mt. Stephen Native Plant Garden	Oaklands Community Association	Native plant garden on Mt Stephen road	Placemaking	\$5,680
				21	\$101,321



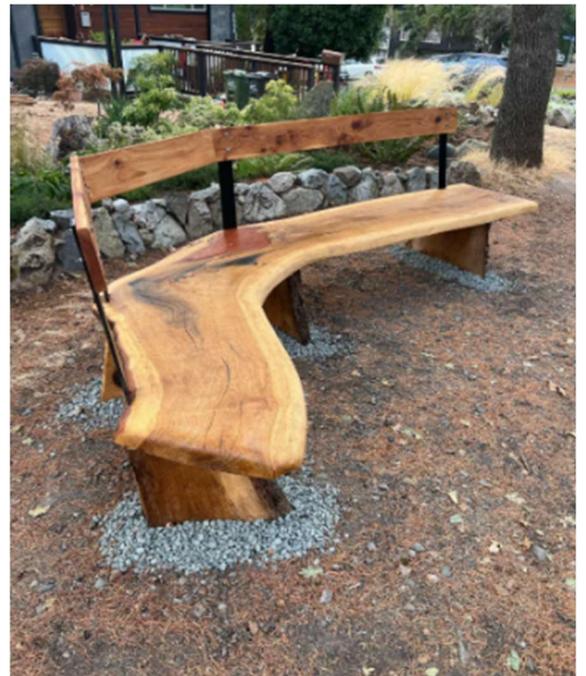
Oaklands Community Association partnered with Coast Salish artist Andrea Fritz of the Lyackson First Nation to create a community and Indigenous-led mural at the Oaklands Community Centre. The mural centered Indigenous experiences, reflections on the legacy of residential schools and colonial histories, and visions of Indigenous futures. Community engagement was integral to the process, beginning with a free educational and consultation event, led by Indigenous educator Brenda Pohl. A Canada Summer Jobs position assisted with outreach, ensuring diverse voices contributed to the design. The unveiling exceeded expectations, drawing over 150 attendees for music, speeches, and reflection. The project strengthened relationships with Indigenous community members and highlighted the importance of trust-building and inclusivity. The experience provided valuable insights into collaborative art-making and decolonial community engagement.

The Oaklands Outdoor Art project documented accessible, permanent outdoor art that reflects the neighbourhood's culture, social life, and environment. The inventory included a diverse range of works from traditional public art commissioned for community institutions to collaborative installations and deeply personal pieces, each expressing unique perspectives and shared meaning. Volunteers played a key role by photographing artworks, creating posters, and helping develop the project webpage. Residents noted that outdoor art beautifies spaces, strengthens neighbourhood identity, and creates opportunities for interaction between artists and the community. The project underscored the value of art as a catalyst for vibrancy, conversation and connection within Oaklands.

The Capital Heights and Kings Road xeriscape project promoted sustainable, low-water gardening through community engagement and education. The initiative began with an information and site-planning session attended by five tables of residents, followed by a community potluck supper. Volunteers helped create three xeriscape garden beds, selecting and planting a variety of drought-tolerant species. To enhance learning, the project team designed signage, produced watercolour artwork and installed plant labels. The demonstration gardens were intended to model low-maintenance boulevard gardening and encourage pollinator habitat. Community response was overwhelmingly positive, with residents appreciating both the educational component and the practical example of sustainable landscaping. The project successfully combined environmental stewardship with community building, offering a replicable model for future neighbourhood initiatives.

Residents on Mt. Stephens St. transformed a neglected double-depth boulevard into a vibrant, multi-use gathering space. The City provided six concrete planters (with soil and plantings) which residents could decorate. Neighbours created a process that led the art design on the planters. Over two weekends, the artists painted the planters with help from neighbourhood children and adults, supported by volunteers managing traffic safety. The initiative fostered community pride and connection, culminating in a celebratory event attended by approximately 150 residents, featuring music from five local musicians and creative activities for 30 children. The site now serves as a thriving neighbourhood hub for crafts, music, daycare breaks, cycling rests, garage sales and annual events like Christmas caroling.

In 2020, a fallen Garry Oak tree was donated to the neighbourhood and repurposed into community benches, creating gathering and resting spaces for residents. A local artisan led the project, crafting three benches placed at Capital Heights, Mt. Stephen Ave., and Fernwood Road. This initiative inspired a fourth, privately funded bench on Roseberry Ave. The benches quickly became popular resting spots for seniors from the Cridge Centre, mothers with children, and visitors, as well as a meeting place for weekly neighbourhood chats, a tradition that began during COVID and continues today. Beyond functionality, the benches beautified the area with decorative heart-shaped inserts and reinforced a sense of place. Interest from other neighbourhoods in replicating the process highlighted the project's success in fostering community connection and enhancing public spaces.



Rockland

Residents and organizations in the Rockland neighbourhood have applied for a total of 13 grants - three community activity grants, four community resiliency grants and six placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$50,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Applicant	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2023	Hearts of Freedom	United Way	Travelling art exhibit on Asian refugee experience in BC	Activity	\$1,500
2024	West Rockland Block party	Rockland Neighbourhood Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,000
2024	Rockland Get Growing	Art Gallery of Greater Victoria	Print making workshop	Activity	\$1,326
				3	\$3,826
2021	Harvest and Share food relief operation	Harvest and Share Food Relief Society	Creation of an indoor space to grow food during the winter	Community Resilience	\$5,000
2024	VCAN community mapping	Rockland Neighbourhood Association	Asset mapping to identify parkland acquisition	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2020	VIRCS Victory Garden (project moved to North Park)	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre	Victory over COVID-19 (Battling food insecurity and providing food distribution to vulnerable families)	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2022	The Palenke Experience	Victoria Community Food Hub Society	Series of workshops on food security	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
				4	\$22,500
2016	Rockland Greenway Interpretive Signage Project	Rockland Neighbourhood Association	A series of signs indicating historical locations and tourist attractions 1000-1500 Rockland Ave	Placemaking	\$5,000
2018	Selfhood	Greater Victoria Art Gallery	A temporary mural project in various locations downtown created by youth 2500 Rock Bay Ave, 512 Herald St, 2620 Quadra St, 1411 Quadra St.	Placemaking	\$5,000
2019	Woodland Pathway	Rockland Neighbourhood Association	A new cedar chip pathway for the Rockland woodland garden Joan Cres and Craigdarroch Rd.	Placemaking	\$2,490
2021	St Matthias Placemaking	St Matthias Anglican Church	Placemaking on corner of Richmond and Richardson	Placemaking	\$5,000
2023	Warren Gardens Placemaking Space	Rockland Neighbourhood Association	Little free library, bench, play lines 1649 Warren Gardens	Placemaking	\$2,800
2025	Rockland Place based story telling project	Rockland Neighbourhood Association	Signpost storytelling throughout the neighbourhood	Placemaking	\$4,375
				6	\$24,665



Installed in 2021, the St. Matthias Placemaking project transformed under-utilized church grounds into an inclusive and welcoming space for all ages. By installing accessible design features such as benches, signage, picnic tables, a labyrinth/meditation walk and a little library, the project created gathering spots that foster connection and community use. Construction was a true community effort, with volunteers aged six to 80 contributing over several months, including parishioners and clergy who built the ADA-accessible picnic table.

The 2023 the Hearts of Freedom project celebrated a piece of B.C. history by creating space in Victoria for a public exhibition on Southeast Asian migration with a show and reception at Government House. Community members were able to engage with both the storytellers and exhibition panels. A key outcome was engaging members of Victoria’s Vietnamese community in volunteer roles, strengthening ties and supporting the broader community. This project was more than an exhibition. It was a celebration of shared history, cultural understanding and community spirit.

In 2018, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV) partnered with Threshold Housing to create Selfhood, showcasing pieces developed during a six-week workshop where ten youth explored themes of identity and self-representation. The project empowered youth, engaged community, and promoted positive alternatives to graffiti, while adapting to participant input to ensure fairness and inclusivity.

The Warren Gardens Placemaking project was to create a mid-street meeting space for the community while calming traffic on Warren Gardens. The project came to life during a lively “planting party”, where residents of all ages - from children to seniors - joined in. Kids played while adults placed and planted greenery in planters, and refreshments donated by

community members added to the festive atmosphere. This new structure not only provides traffic calming but also fosters a sense of community, offering a safe and inviting place for neighbours to connect and for children to enjoy. *(This project was only a temporary installation)*

Vic West

Residents and organizations in the Vic West neighbourhood have applied for a total of 34 grants - 15 community activity grants, five community resiliency grants and 14 placemaking grants - for a total City investment of more than \$124,000. This amount has been equally matched by residents in the form of volunteer labour and donations. Examples of just a few projects are included in this summary report.

Year	Project	Sponsor/Applicant	Brief Description	Category	Grant received
2017	Zucchini Car Races	Vic West Community Association	Zucchini "car" race event held during the neighbourhood festival	Activity	\$1,000
2018	Gorge Swimming Access Workshop	Gorge Swim Fest Society	Workshops to explore park improvements along the Gorge	Activity	\$1,000
2018	VW Logo Redesign	Vic West Community Association	Redevelopment of the Vic West Community Association's logo	Activity	\$1,000
2019	Vic West Anniversary Celebrations	Vic West Community Association	A pilot summer concert in Banfield Park	Activity	\$1,000
2020	Tree Challenge Vic West	Vic West Community Association	Trees in the City challenge by 7 groups of residents	Activity	\$7,000
2020	Pioneer Co-Op Tree Challenge	Pioneer Housing Co-op	Tree planting at the co-op	Activity	\$1,000
2023	Raynor Shines Block Party	Vic West Community Association	Block Party	Activity	\$1,487
2023	Banfield Park Walk and Mapping	Gorge Waterway Action Society	Nature walk and green mapping in the park	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Sow & Grow with Seed Balls	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Booth at VicWest Fest on seed growing	Activity	\$1,430
2023	Vic By Vic West Block-a-Palooza	Vic West Community Association	Block party	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Henry St block party	Vic West Community Association	Block party on Henry St	Activity	\$1,500
2023	Seaforth Block Party	Vic West Community Association	Block party for Seaforth residents	Activity	\$1,400
2025	Songs for the Gorge	Gorge Waterway Action Society	Public education event for Ocean Week	Activity	\$750
2025	Trees in the City	Vic West Community Association	34 trees planted by residents	Activity	\$3,400
2025	Vic West Halloween BBQ	Vic West Community Association	Halloween community party	Activity	\$1,300
				15	\$26,267

2023	Nourishing Community	Vic West Community Association	Food Pantry and Newcomer's Dinner	Community Resiliency	\$6,921
2020	Get Growing Vic West	Vic West Community Association	Distribution of food growing planters/starts and support for growing in Vic West	Community Resiliency	\$5,000
2024	Garry Oak Restoration	Vic West Community Association	Restoration of Garry Oak habitat at 83 Saghalie Rd	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2025	Garry Oak Restoration Ph 2	Vic West Community Association	Next phase to restore Garry Oak meadow	Community Resiliency	\$7,500
2025	Orca Gardens Community Resilience Garden	Canadian Orca Rescue Society	Expansion of community garden	Community Resiliency	\$5,586
				5	\$32,507

2016	Vic West School Natural Playground	Vic West Elementary School PAC	A naturalized playground feature at Vic West Elementary school 750 Front St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2016	Banfield Commons and Community Orchard Sign	Vic West Food Security Collective	Installation of interpretive signage for the commons garden at Banfield Park	Placemaking	\$3,265
2016	Gorge Waterway Online Thermometer	Gorge Swim Fest Society Jack Meredith	An online thermometer showing Gorge Waterway swimming temperatures	Placemaking	\$1,500
2017	McKaskill Street Mural	Vic West Community Association	Street mural at McCaskill and Langford St intersection	Placemaking	\$5,000
2019	Vic West Pollinator Partnership	Pollinator Partnership Canada	Installation of a bee pollinator feature in Banfield Commons Garden	Placemaking	\$5,000
2020	Russell St Mural	Vic West Community Association	Wall mural 247 Russell St	Placemaking	\$5,000
2020	Firefly trail	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network	Strings of solar lights installed in Banfield Park	Placemaking	\$2,740
2021	Vic West Elem Children's Garden	Vic West Elementary School	Children's garden at Victoria West Elementary School.	Placemaking	\$5,000
2022	Orca Garden Placemaking	Canadian Orca Rescue Society	Placemaking elements to complement new community garden	Placemaking	\$5,000
2024	VW Elem Indigenous Garden	Vic West Elementary School	Children's garden Ph 2	Placemaking	\$2,250
2024	House of Courage murals	Vic West Community Association	House of Courage murals on community centre	Placemaking	\$7,500
2024	Henry St Boulevard garden	Canadian Orca Rescue Society	Boulevard garden on Henry St	Placemaking	\$3,000
2024	FED Pollinator Garden	Food Eco District	Community pollinator garden and celebration 395 Harbour Rd	Placemaking	\$7,500
2025	Banfield Park Sea Can mural	Vic West Community Association	New mural on sea can in Banfield Park	Placemaking	\$7,500
				14	\$65,255

The House of Courage Murals project was a collaboration between the Vic West Community Centre and House of Courage First Nations housing. Residents of House of Courage designed and painted five striking murals centered on the theme of *Community*. These artworks celebrate cultural pride and embody the spirit of collaboration. Beyond beautifying the community centre, the project strengthened relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous neighbours, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels seen, valued, and connected.



The Greenventure: Community Mapping event provided a free, accessible, educational and engaging event for the Vic West community in Banfield Park. The event featured a community mapping workshop and nature-based activities, including two guided nature walks focused on pollinators and pollinator habitat. The event connected people to place and highlighted the importance of the Gorge Waterway within the urban landscape.



A group of residents organized the first Seaforth block party for their townhouse complex in Vic West. The party was well attended with people from different age ranges and backgrounds joining in the fun. Since the block party, everyone in the complex is friendlier with each other and those with kids share responsibility for watching them as they run in and out of each other's houses. Residents have continued to host events since the block party including two 'Hallo-weenie Roasts' and an easter egg hunt. Overall there is more of a community feel in the complex with many residents helping each other with pet care and plant watering when they go away and making an effort to welcome in new residents.



Through the Garry Oak Meadow Restoration Project, residents successfully restored the area around in some large Garry Oaks, using plants native to the area. They also installed a Little Free Library and a bench which created a welcoming outdoor space to meet up and chat with neighbours. The site has become a wonderful gathering place enjoyed by residents from around the area.





The Banfield Park sea-can mural project brought colour, creativity and connection to this neighbourhood. Neighbours came together to vote on the final mural designs, ensuring that the artwork reflected shared values and community spirit. Volunteers helped document the artists as the artist installed the new murals, capturing the transformation step by step. The project also included an all-ages hands-on mural workshop, where participants learned about the community mural process and painted together to create their own collaborative artwork. What began as project to refresh the sea-can has become a symbol of neighbourhood pride, creativity and collaboration.



MY GREAT
Neighbourhood