



# Neighbourhood Small Grants

2020 Program Summary  
Lions Bay to Capilano



**WEST VANCOUVER  
FOUNDATION**

# About NSG

The Neighbourhood Small Grant (NSG) program was started in 1999, by the Vancouver Foundation, as a way to combat loneliness and social isolation, by making communities stronger, safer and more welcoming. By offering a small grant (up to \$500) we enable the applicant to bring their project to life, often in a more impactful way or with people in the community they may not have previously been familiar with. The NSG kickstarts people's imagination and often makes neighbours more willing to participate. Traditional projects have included concepts such as park cleanups, emergency preparedness meetings, community gardens and enhanced block parties.

In 2020, due to COVID-19, the program was modified to the Responsive Neighbourhood Small Grant program - a program of virtual and socially distanced projects.

*"Changing communities for better, one act of kindness at a time."*

## 2020 Results

25  
Projects  
Funded

13  
New Project  
Leaders

Over  
\$10,000  
Granted



## Principles of the NSG Program

- **Everyone has gifts:** Anyone can offer their ideas, talents, skills, experiences and contacts to build a strong community
- **Small is powerful:** Small amounts of money have a potential to bring powerful changes in community in forms of new relationships, increased self-confidence, leadership development, stronger sense of place and creation of local traditions
- **Local decisions are best:** Community members from diverse backgrounds and experiences get an opportunity to make decisions on who should get the grants in their community
- **Where we live matters:** the grants enable anyone to team up with their neighbour and develop a project that they can carry out within an area of where they live and based on what they think works best in their community
- **We learn together:** There is no single right way to build community so anyone involved in the program will have many opportunities to learn, share, reflect, exchange and capture knowledge, skills and information that they can use within and beyond the program
- **Everyone is invited:** The program is accessible and inclusive to anyone living in an NSG area no matter their age, ethnicity, income, cultural background, gender, ability and sexual orientation.

## Land Acknowledgment

Written with gratitude on unceded traditional territories of the of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



# Feedback

Participants, project leaders, volunteers and community members all appreciate and value this program and the projects that are carried out in our community. Although there were some challenges due to the pandemic, such as projects taking longer to organize, quirks with online technology and it taking a little more coaxing to get participants, the program continues to produce many amazing projects, connections and outcomes. Here is some of the feedback from project leaders.

*"This project was a great aide to my personal mental health. Having a project to pursue my passion and share it with others was a great help. I am grateful for the grant and hope this helps others as it helped me."*

Most memorable experience: *"Hearing from Jill Lawlor (West Vancouver Seniors' Centre) that our effort truly made an impact with the seniors."*

*"The emails I received from participants saying they have since become friends with their writing partners have made me so happy."*

*"It was so lovely seeing developing friendships each week in the (online) breakout groups. There was so much support and love."*

*"Without Kim there would not be a Cedardale group. Kim is our 'glue' and has inspired many of us to be more 'sticky'."*

*"Getting emails of thanks and seeing everyone in the community pitch in to help! So grateful."*

*"Most memorable is hearing children and seeing their reactions to something they never thought they would be able to accomplish."*

*"The heart-felt comments by almost every community member who felt that this project ~ a garden commemorating an active gardener in our neighbourhood ~ did more to bring our community together than any other. Truly inspiring."*

***"Kim is  
our 'glue'"***

## Celebration

In February 2021, we held an online Celebration event, to celebrate the 2020 Project Leaders, inform key community members about the amazing work these dedicated individuals are doing and educate about this wonderful program. 3 project leaders presented on their projects - Lucie, Madelyne and Andrea. Chief Bill Williams presented a Traditional Welcome to start the session. Speakers also included the Foundation's Chair Nancy Farran, MLA West Vancouver-Capilano Karin Kirkpatrick and Mayor Mary-Ann Booth. Attendees brainstormed some fabulous ideas for 2021 projects and overall everyone had a wonderful time.

**40+  
Attended  
Celebration**

### Neighbourhood Grant Committee

A committee of volunteers who also live in your community decide which applications will get funding and distributes the funds between those projects. In a normal year, the committee meets a couple of times per year and visits the in-person events. In 2020, as part of the Responsive nature of the program, the committee was meeting weekly.

Thank you to the 2020 committee members: Arzoo Babul, Hoon Choi, Eleanor Cramb, Lorna Duncan, Tamara Leger.

*"Joining the NSG committee allowed me to be more involved in the community by helping engage & connect, and uplift the community experiences of others."*



# Project List

**25 projects** ran in 2020 in West Vancouver, Lions Bay and Squamish Nation. These were all held within provincial health guidelines and included concepts such as delivering care packages or special messages, online groups (such as fitness or special interests) and outdoor beautification projects. Although the pandemic presented unique challenges for executing a project, the project leaders did an amazing job at making their community stronger, more resilient and connected.

## 2020's PROJECTS

**Brighten Your Day – Plants for Seniors.** Jean & Joanne

**Outdoor Library Boxes + Compassion Cards.** Victoria

**COVID Writing Workshops.** Lindy

**Know North Shore Website.** Cayley

**Unbirthday Donation Boxes.** Roybn

**Mask Heroes.** Christy & Gina

**Community Fitness Space.** Frances

**Unlock with Books.** Dorsa

**Bannock Kits for Elders.** Lucie & Monica

**COVID Help.** Imaan

**Gail's Community Garden.** Julie

**First Nations Culture.** Janine

**Spreading Kindness.** Kim

**"It's a Wonderful World" Cards + Messages.** Maggie

**Know North Shore Outreach.** Cayley

**Online Fitness Classes.** Andrea

**Art from the Heart.** Madeylne

**Writer Support & Podcast.** Joanna

**Chasing Colour Live Art Demonstration.** Sue

**Sunnyside Community Garden.** Antonietta

**Elders' Wellness Bundles.** Lucie & Monica

**Compassion Cards + Packages for Seniors.** Victoria

**Lions Bay Neighbours Group.** Helen

**Cards for Care Homes.** Lauren



## Want to hold your own project?

If you would like to hold your own Neighbourhood Small Grant project, visit our site for more information, ideas and the application.

[westvanfoundation.ca/nsg](https://westvanfoundation.ca/nsg)

Or email [info@westvanfoundation.ca](mailto:info@westvanfoundation.ca)



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Small Grants  
West Vancouver**



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