


SINCE 1978

YEARS



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DIVERSECITIES

Diversecities is a charitable organization dedicated to enhancing social mobility for Calgarians. As a non-profit, we assist visible minorities, marginalized communities, and recent immigrants in key aspects of life: fostering social connections, facilitating learning, promoting economic integration, and ensuring overall well-being. We empower community members with assistance and guidance to unlock their complete capabilities while fostering enduring connections with them in the process.

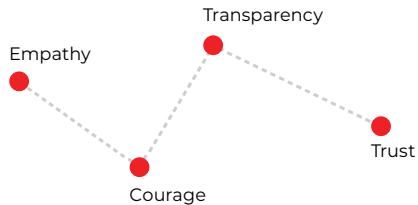
MISSION

Our goal is to reconnect with the foundational principles of our organization: to enhance social mobility for new Calgarians and to establish an inclusive and supportive society where everyone has equal access to the myriad of benefits Canada has to offer. We are dedicated to enhancing social mobility for the people of Calgary.

VISION

Diversecities embodies our enduring vision: to create a hospitable environment for immigrants while fostering meaningful engagement among Calgarians of diverse ethnic backgrounds within the community.

CORE VALUES



Message from the Board

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Stakeholders of Diversecities,

2023 is the year of reinvention. Even though the world has returned to “normal” after almost three years of pandemic restrictions, the reality is that a lot of things have changed due to COVID.

As a result, Diversecities has also evolved, meeting the demands of geopolitical change globally. Our organization has serviced various communities; including the continued influx of Chinese and Ukrainian immigrants fleeing war.

As we charter through unknown waters, I can't help but relate our challenges to a quote by Simon Sinek:

“The challenge of the unknown future is so much more exciting than the stories of the accomplished past.”

There have been successes, challenges, and learnings at Diversecities as we continue to build upon our new and more inclusive name. We are no doubt going through uncharted waters as an organization, but I also am confident in the leadership of our CEO, expertise of our staff, and the passion of volunteers to build upon 45 years of success in serving Calgarians. I hope you will continue to be a part of our journey as we meet the evolving demands and needs of our diverse communities and clients.



Norman Poon
Co-Chair

Message from the CEO



The 2022-2023 period was one for reflection and capacity development for Diversecities.

Once we resumed in-person services after the COVID-19 pandemic, it was more than evident that client and community needs had changed, and we needed to find a way to respond to those needs accordingly. For that reason, we underwent extensive restructuring, modernization and resource allocation processes.

We continue to invest a lot of time and resources in the digital transformation of the organization, modernization of processes, procedures and staff development; including designing and implementing our first organizational strategic plan after our rebrand. We are doing all this to ensure that Diversecities' programs and services are relevant and appropriate to respond to clients' needs.

However, the recent socioeconomic, environmental and political changes affecting the region and the non-profit sector have decreased our resources, while community needs continue to rise. For that reason, we have had to make difficult decisions, reduce services, and put others on hold; all this is to ensure that even if we provide fewer services, those we provide surpass clients' expectations.

Nevertheless, this reinvention process has allowed us to build strong partnerships and create new ones. Calgary is a city full of wonderful people and organizations doing fantastic work, and we want to ensure we can work with them to ensure clients can find the support they are looking for through our services or community referrals.

Diversecities has 45 years of history serving the greater Calgary region. During this period, we have been fortunate to have dedicated and passionate staff and board members looking forward to different ways to serve the community and partnering with various community, government and private sector partners. However, one of the organization's most significant resources and blessings is the beautiful human beings who volunteer with us. Their selfless dedication and commitment to supporting others are the true inspiration for everyone in the organization.

We are looking forward to continuing the organization's story, serving underrepresented communities, and promoting social inclusion for our clients.

Diversity is respecting other people's beliefs while maintaining yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Montiel'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with some loops and flourishes.

Alex Montiel
Chief Executive Officer

Community Collaborations

Fairchild Radio FM94.7

Diversecities collaborated with Fairchild Radio FM 94.7 in early 2023 to begin a new series titled “Diversecities Community Connection,” which airs every other Saturday at 4:05 pm. Each 5-minute segment highlights Diversecities’ various programs and services, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and more. Big thank you to Fairchild Radio FM 94.7 team for allowing us to share our work in the community! We look forward to continuing this partnership with you, and connecting with more Calgarians through these segments.

ACCT Foundation & Act2End-Racism

In the Spring of 2022, Diversecities’ Anti-Racism Program began collaborations with the ACCT Foundation and Act2End-Racism to increase access to existing anti-racism educational materials and resources, raise awareness of issues of racism, and increase the capacity of community members to address racism. Over the past year, this partnership has enabled us to connect with other organizations within the Act2EndRacism Network across Canada, access training and learning opportunities for staff, promote resource sharing, and open the door to building connections with other groups.

Gateway

In October 2022, Diversecities officially became a community partner of Gateway, joining a network of dozens of other local organizations and community resources in serving and supporting newcomers through a collaborative, online referral portal. The Gateway Partner Portal, an initiative of Immigrant Services Calgary, brings together organizations and community resources to help newcomers navigate the plethora of programs and services available to them in Calgary. Through this collaboration, community partners can find and match programs and services based on client needs, and make referrals to organizations within the network. This partnership has allowed Diversecities to build connections with more organizations within the Gateway Network, reach more clients, and help them learn more about the programs and services available in the Calgary area. In the coming months, we look forward to expanding our options on the Portal to include volunteer opportunities for newcomers.



Community Collaborations

Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA)

Diversities is glad to partner with the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association to offer counselling services to clients in Chinese. This ongoing collaboration helps us to connect clients to CIWA counsellors who provide culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate support to clients in their first language. Services are available once per week at the Diversities office. This past year, Diversities and CIWA expanded the collaboration to have a Cantonese-speaking counsellor on rotation, supplementing existing counselling services offered in Mandarin.

Calgary Legal Guidance (CLG)

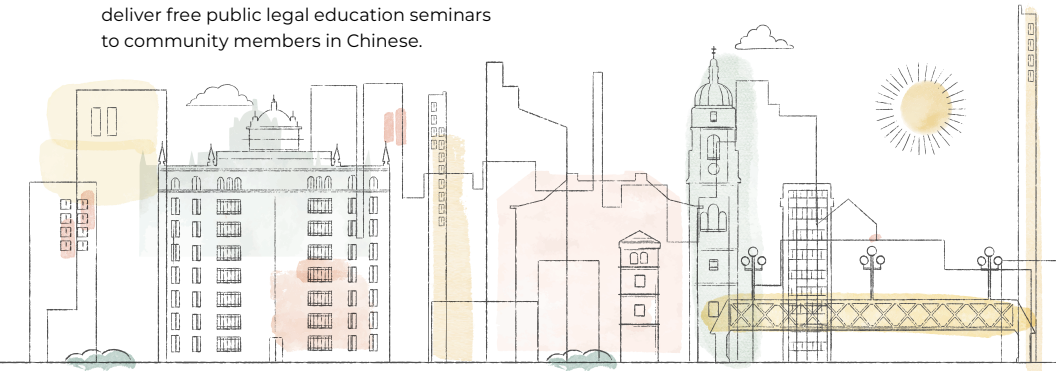
Diversities' Law & Advocacy Program has been a proud partner of Calgary Legal Guidance for 24 years. This longstanding partnership has helped us promote legal awareness and general legal knowledge in the Chinese community in Calgary, connect community members to legal resources, and minimize barriers to access services. Over this period, Diversities and CLG have collaborated on several different services, including referrals and interpretation support to CLG's General Legal Clinic, Immigration Clinics, and Elder Law Program. Diversities and CLG also periodically work together to deliver free public legal education seminars to community members in Chinese.

Worker's Resource Centre (WRC)

In the Fall of 2022, Diversities and the Worker's Resource Centre reactivated a partnership to connect more Chinese-speaking clients with existing information and resources on labour laws, employment insurance, and other associated support. As a result of this partnership, clients are now able to access more direct and specific support from the WRC through interpretation and translation help from Diversities, client referrals and 1-on-1 support, general information and educational resources, in the clients' first language, helping to minimize language and cultural barriers in communication and access to services.

Chinatown BIA

Diversities is honoured to collaborate with the Chinatown Business Improvement Area (Chinatown BIA) in the management and coordination of event volunteers for the Chinatown Street Festival (August 19, 2023), Chinatown Lantern Festival (September 8, 2023), and From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Journey of Chinese in Canada Exhibition (September 29 – October 8, 2023). We're thankful for the opportunity to participate in these events and activities to promote Asian culture, encourage cross-cultural learning,





Korean Social Services Centre (KSSC)

In late August 2023, Diversicities began collaborations with the Korean Social Services Centre to conduct community research on how newcomers from East, Southeast, and South Asian communities connect with and access community services. This initiative is aimed at helping us gain insight into how recent arrivals to Calgary (post-COVID-19 pandemic) perceive and access the different types of services available to them, the relevancy and accessibility of services, and evaluate current trends in the community. The results of this community research will help inform us in the design, adaptation, and delivery of programs and services, help identify and trace new service gaps, and learn more about the barriers that prevent or limit access to services. This initiative is made possible through financial support from ActionDignity.



Chinatown BIA - Lantern Festival

Canadian Zalmi Society

On March 14, 2023, the Canadian Zalmi Society donated 10 tablets to Diversicities' Afghan ESL Class participants. These tablets will increase beneficiaries' access to learning and communications resources, allow them to build personal networks and contribute to their enhanced quality of life. Thank you to Nasser Khan and the Canadian Zalmi Society for this generous donation.



Diversicities Community Connection - FM94.7





Law & Advocacy Program



Program Highlights

Youth Program: Educational Field Trip

On August 10, 2023, a family field trip was organized for a fun-filled and educational visit to the Youthlink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre. A total of 16 youths joined the field trip accompanied by their parents or guardians. While learning about the importance of law enforcement agencies, our youth participants also sharpened their observation and analytical skills in the bingo hunt, as well as the fun-filled Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) worksheets.

Community Program: Legal Knowledge Quiz

Throughout the summer, the Law & Advocacy Program organized Legal Knowledge Quizzes with the visitors to Diversities' booths at the Calgary Dragonboat Festival and the Calgary Chinatown Street Festival. A total of 151 people participated in the quiz from all walks of life, ranging from teenagers to senior citizens. Participants were quizzed on their knowledge of the Canadian legal system, family law, employment law, and immigration law. After the quiz, each participant was given a scorecard with links to resources for legal information and education that they could bring home.



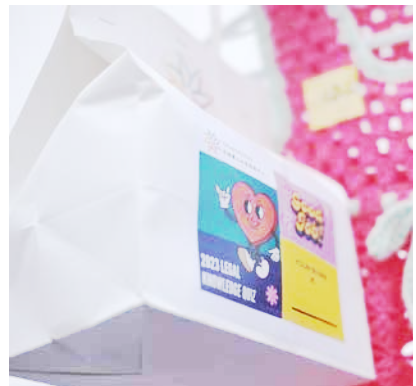
Youth Program: Mock Trial

Youth Program: Mock Trial

On July 14, 2023, a Mock Trial Youth event was held at the Calgary Central Library as a collaborative event between the Law & Advocacy Program and the Child & Youth Program in Diversities. A total of 14 youth participants between the ages of 8 and 14 joined the program. The Mock Trial event was carried out with an age-appropriate mock trial script titled “Regina vs Luke Skywalker.” The participants enjoyed a 3-hour event where they sharpened their reading, speaking, and roleplaying skills and learned some basic knowledge about the law and courtroom etiquette.



Youth Program: Educational Field Trip



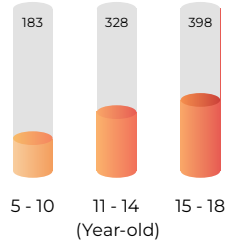
Community Program:
Legal Knowledge Quiz



Children & Youth Program

Diversecities' Children and Youth program is designed to assist Calgary's youngest generations, both those who have recently moved to the city and those who have been here for a while but are still struggling with language and cultural barriers that prevent them from achieving a sense of belonging. This program works with children and youth from multicultural families to explore how their family heritage and Canadian culture can meet and coexist while exploring their own identities and interests. This program offers flexible activities designed and adapted to meet the needs of children and youth, focusing on innovative ways to provide a safe and motivating environment for them to explore, acquire, and practice their social skills.

Participants' Age Group
(909 Children & Youth in total)



After school programs: Super Cool Afterschool and World Culture Society

We provide after-school programs both in-person and online. In the last year, Diversecities' children and youth activities have served 452 children and youth through in-person and virtual after-school sessions. Most of the in-person activities were held at the Falcon Ridge Community Center, Forest Lawn High School, and Crescent Heights High School. Through the afterschool activities, the program has reached underserved neighbourhoods and newcomer families from the African, Asian and Ukrainian communities.

220

Elementary School Children

232

High School Youth



Program Highlights

Diversecities served 213 children and youth directly through summer activities in 2023, and 178 children and youth, including their families, were served through collaboration with community partners. Some of these collaborations are:

Telus Spark Field Visit

136 kids and 14 parents were part of the field trip planned for five visit days.



Photo Storytelling Workshop



On this successful event at the Calgary Central Library, we allowed the kids to go out of the box and think of a story to tell from their surroundings through pictures taken by themselves.

Sport Days



25 children were part of this fun day to celebrate the human spirit, have fun, be physically active, learn the fundamentals of sports, and develop cohesion and motor skills.

Yoga and Picnic Day



The Picnic in the Park at Falconridge was a huge success! The program involved 20 children and their parents. We brought food, drinks, and yoga mats to the parks. The kids had a good time, and the parents relaxed and enjoyed themselves with their fellow parents. Following participation, we gave the kids yoga mats and scooters as a gift.

The Chess Summer Camp



We had a two-month virtual summer camp chess training. Initially, there were 55 participants registered, and as a reward for 100% attendance, we provided a chess set to the children and youth. On August 25, the chess summer camp concluded with an in-person event at the central library.



Social Walking With The Elderly

In collaboration with the Calgary Chinese Elderly Association, Diversities developed an intergenerational social walking project focused on encouraging the younger and older generations to interact on a more personal level while reducing the social isolation of the elderly. Members of the Calgary Chinese Elderly Association had the opportunity to exercise walking around Chinatown while sharing their memories and stories. At the same time, students up to age 24 could learn more about culture, traditions and life experiences from elders.



Diversecities Youth Team: Dragon Boat Festival

For the first time ever, Diversecities signed up a Dragon Boat Team to participate in the Calgary Dragon Boat Fest. Diversecities Youth Dragon Boat Team was the only Youth (U18) team that participated in the 2023 Dragon Boat Fest and finished second!

Dragon boat racing is a fun and enjoyable activity for all ages and skill levels. It requires teamwork and synchronicity, and Diversecities participated in a youth race team aged 12-17. The program provided pre-training sessions for participants, empowering them to build their team spirit. The boat racing program offers young people the opportunity to be physically active, form meaningful relationships, and learn life lessons while having fun. It also empowers youth to become leaders through a peer-to-peer mentorship model, empowering them to take ownership of the team. Diversecities aims to empower youth to live an active lifestyle, develop confidence, and build resilience. The physical and psychological benefits of dragon boat racing include increased self-worth, energy, confidence, and satisfaction in contributing to a team.



Career Scene Investigation (CSI)



Art and Craft Day

8 Participants were treated to a fun and educational arts and craft day for kids held at Diversecities' office.





Community Connection Events

We received over 500 event tickets from Kids Upfront and distributed them to newcomer families to help them develop a sense of belonging in their new environment. Through attending various events, children and youth learn about their surroundings and gain confidence in conversing with their peers. They will improve their communication skills and self-esteem as a result of attending a variety of events in Calgary.



Food Security Program

Food Security Program provides food hamper support to low-income families and individuals who experience different language, social, financial, and cultural barriers in accessing food. Distribution will take place weekly for a certain period. Clients need to register for the program to receive services. Emergency food hampers are also available if required.

In early 2023, the program was suspended for a short time. However, the program restarted in September 2023. The program also received a donation from Enmax and the Federation of Calgary Communities for a new energy-efficient and high-capacity refrigerator to accommodate more food for our clients. Several new features will be implemented in the program to respond to the issues of high inflation and growing living costs.

29,350 Pounds⁽¹⁾
of donated food was distributed to

120 Families

Weekly

throughout the previous year.

\$17,4151

The total value of food supplied to the eligible families.

\$100

The average amount every family participating in the program saved for their grocery bill per month.

According to Canada's Food Price Report 2023,⁽²⁾ seniors spend more on food than younger adults. In 2022, female seniors over 70 spent an average of \$3,273 per year, while male seniors in the same age range spent \$3,637 per year.

Of the population the program served, 90% are over 70 years old, low-income, isolated, and with limited resources.

Food Security Program helps our senior clients save an average of 33% to 36% on their monthly grocery bills.

According to the data from the Second Harvest Food Rescue Charity

\$58,041.6

The average national retail value of rescued food that would have otherwise been thrown away.

23,145 Meals Provided

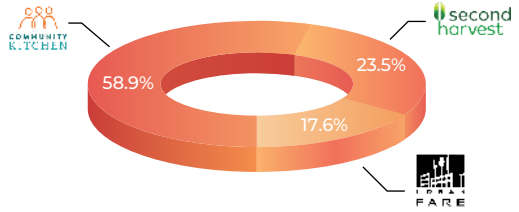
30,554.5 lbs

of GHG emissions, which would have entered the air, have been diverted.



Program Growth

The program has three major food donors and also receives food donations from individuals and small businesses.



Generous Support

The program also received a generous donation of a modern refrigerator valued at almost \$2,000 from ENMAX and The Federation of Calgary Communities through the grant Energizing Spaces. This gift helps the program rescue and store more food from the regular daily operation and improve the quality and safety of rescued foods.



Clients picking up food at previous food distribution location.

New Start

The new food distribution center accommodates more clients to pick up food every week. It also provides a warm space that protects our clients from bad weather. The most benefit the clients get from the new location is the food quality. With the new refrigerator installed in this new location, the transportation times of frozen food are considerably reduced, which means the quality of the food can be assured.

“Taste of Chicken Wings”

On a regular pickup day, a pack of 8-10 frozen chicken wings was distributed as part of the food hampers on that week. A senior couple who received the food hamper that week returned to show their appreciation to us. The husband said, “We have not eaten chicken wings for almost one year because they were so expensive. We missed the taste of it for a long time. Thanks for your program; we can enjoy the delicious chicken wings again tonight.”

The taste of food is not only dietary need but an enduring memory related to people’s life as well. What a remarkable memory the Food Security Program can bring for a family.

[1]The total number of foods received and the value of foods is calculated from January 2023 to April 2023 due to insufficient data for the previous year.
[2] Dalhousie University, the University of Guelph, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Saskatchewan (2023). Canada’s Food Price Report 2023 (13th edition). https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/sites/agri-food/Canada%27s%20Food%20Price%20Report%202023_Digital.pdf

Bridge Program



From the Community Services Desk to Community Support Groups, the Bridge Program aims to promote social inclusion and connection for clients facing language or cultural barriers. We believe being inclusive is not just about creating opportunities for people to participate in the local community as it currently exists; it is about belonging and helping them to integrate into the community from different aspects of their lives, whether they are new to Calgary or Canada.

Youth Lion Dance Club

Starting from September 2023, we have been recruiting youth students who are interested in learning the traditional Chinese art and culture, Lion Dance. On Sunday's classes participants join our FREE Lion Dance class to learn about the Lion Dance, regardless of their cultural background. Our passionate instructor brings his expertise and experiences of Lion Dance in teaching and hopes to pass this art to the next generation. Inspired to promote dragon-lion dance worldwide, the instructor believes students can develop concentration, team spirit, and resilience, learning from victories and defeats. They also contribute to the community through performances, fostering mutual understanding and integration.



Community Support Groups

The Women Group

The Women's Group has a long-standing history with us, and they meet up once a week to do knitting and crafting. By keeping this connection, they have a safe place and opportunity to build their social relationships with each other and to spend time together outside their domestic roles. In addition, participants have been supporting our programs and services by donating their handmade masterpieces at fundraising events to raise money.

Community Service Desk

Between Sep-2022 and Aug-2023, the Bridge Program has served over 3238 clients, mostly through our Community Service Desk and one-on-one appointments. The majority of our clients requested information related to their inquiries, and others asked for help with filling in forms for provincial and federal services and benefits. We also helped clients connect with other community-based organizations and agencies to provide further assistance that could help with their inquiries by breaking the language and cultural barriers. Without the support of our front desk volunteers we were unable to deliver outstanding services in response to increasing demand for our daily client inquiries. We have our weekly front desk volunteers who carry out some administrative tasks in answering questions at our Community Service Desk. Their dedication and hard work are great assets to the success of better serving the community.





Buddy Group

Every Thursday, we have our Buddy Group, which is for seniors who are over 55 years old to join. The purpose of this group is to help participants plan for their retirement and help them live better as they age. Some topics include basic knowledge of smartphones and computers, healthy eating and lifestyle, and social activities and events to promote active and social lives.



Newcomer's Group

Every Friday, we have our Newcomer's Group, which aims to help newcomers either from other provinces or other countries to settle and integrate into local and Canadian lives. There are many aspects for newcomers to learn and adapt not only as an individual, but as a family. By providing educational and informational seminars for ten consecutive weeks, we hope our clients can develop skills to better plan for their future, and help them to make decisions with more knowledge of the provincial and federal services and benefits.

Outing Activity-A Day Trip to Banff National Park

Our annual day trip is the most popular one among all other projects. Participants represented diverse language backgrounds, with the majority speaking Chinese and small families speaking Ukrainian and Spanish. Positive feedback from the surveys and conversations highlighted participants' satisfaction with the trip. Participants had a great time in this educational and joyful experience. It was the first time for many participants exploring Banff National Park as they did not have available resources to travel themselves, and they were happy that Diversities organized this outing activity for them. Some participants who have visited Banff National Park before commented that they had

different experiences while travelling with us this time as they learned different sides of the park which they didn't know before. To make it more socially engaging, we prepared Bingo as the icebreaker game to encourage participants to meet new friends and create social interaction during the bus ride.



Successful and Rewarding Story

Mr. A connected with us with a very anxious voice and needed help with AIISH-related questions. After the first meeting with our front desk, we realized that he needed help with multiple forms and processes that he was unaware of, and we ended up having various follow-up appointments to help with his inquiry. When we first met him, his anxiety made it difficult to stay calm, but by the time we met with him, he was feeling relieved and had a big smile on his face. He held the hands of our staff very tight and thanked us for assisting him in navigating a complex process that was overwhelming him with anxiety.

Mental Well-Being Program

The Community Helpers Program (CHP), designed for young people between the ages of 12 and above, is being carried out by Diversecities with the support of Alberta Health Services (AHS). It is intended to support young people and their friends who are facing an increase in stress, anxiety, or any other mental health challenges. The goal of the CHP is to prepare participants, who are already excellent helpers, to support and refer young people to community mental health resources as needed. These young people and those who work with them can improve their helping abilities, self-care techniques, boundary-setting abilities,

awareness of mental health issues, familiarity with local resources, understanding of suicide, and other helping skills through training.

Despite the efforts to remove the stigma from mental health concerns, many people are still uncomfortable seeking professional help for these issues. CHP aims to remove some obstacles, as it normalizes the helping behaviours between peers, friends, and acquaintances. Research from AHS shows that when youth experience problems, they are more likely to turn to another child for help.

Program Highlights

Over the past year, Diversecities has participated in promotional events to raise awareness for CHP, mental health, and suicide prevention. Some of these activities include collaborations with the Dragon Boat Festival, Chinatown Street Festival, Lantern Festival, SAIT International Students' Welcome Fair, and Mount Royal University's Volunteer Fair. Diversecities also hosted the Child and Youth Mental Health Day Event and the Self-Care Day at the office.



Child and Youth Mental Health Day Event

To raise awareness for mental health and the CHP, the Diversecities team and volunteers use fun activities, such as the wheel of fortune (with physical and mental wellness-related prizes), self-care bingo (sharing self-care strategies), mini escape rooms, and arts and crafts to engage the community to celebrate the occasion together.



Self-Care Day

In collaboration with the Child and Youth Summer Programs at Diversecities, the self-care module from CHP was selected to be transformed into a small event for the participants. During the 3 hours, participants were encouraged to share and learn about self-care strategies through Feelings Jenga, Mental Health Scavenger Hunt, Arts and Crafts, and Yoga.



Community Helpers Program



Between Nov 2022 and Aug 2023, Diversecities successfully formed partnerships with seven new organizations and connected with various individuals who expressed interest in the program.

The feedback from participants was generally high praise about the relevance and helpfulness of the program and how important it was for themselves, their friends and families, and their communities.

“Through learning, I have more confidence and the ability to help people in need.”

“I gained a lot from this training center and learned a lot of knowledge that I usually don’t notice. It was beneficial for self-awareness and awareness of people who need help. I hope I can use the knowledge I learned during this period to help myself and other people in need in my future life.”

“With the variety of topics referencing Mental Health, having done all the Modules, it will help me further my abilities to be a Community Helper.”



91 Individuals Completed their Community Helpers Program Training

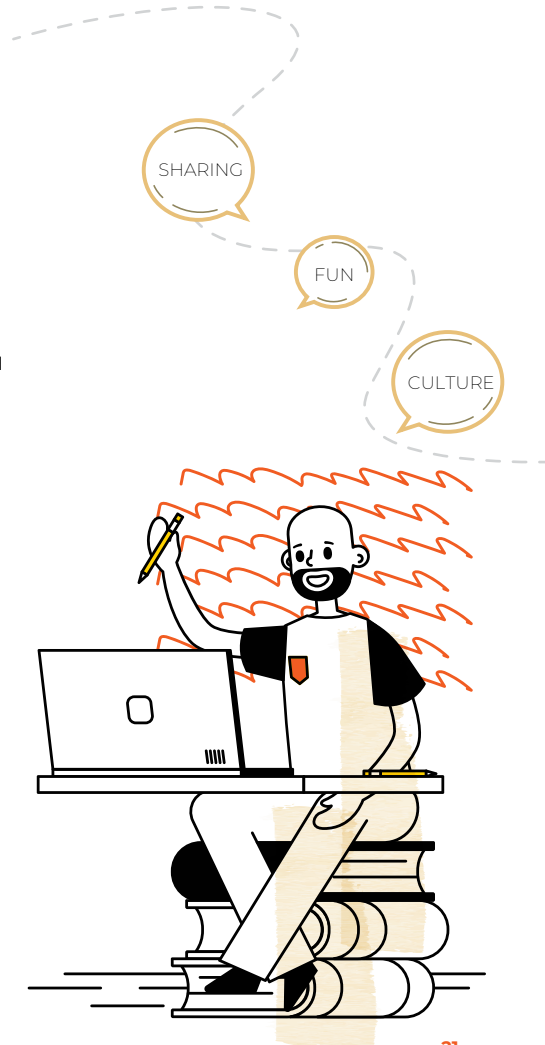
Community Education Program

Stepping Stones: Bridging Cultures Through Language

In the heart of our community, the Stepping Stones project has been making profound impacts on the lives of seniors from Chinese backgrounds and women from Afghan backgrounds.

With a commitment to nurturing cross-cultural connections, we've facilitated ESL classes, encompassing six groups and two levels of language proficiency. Over the past year, we proudly served 72 students, and our mission continues to flourish as we welcome new learners into our warm and inclusive embrace.

What sets our program apart is the powerful connection our students have with their instructors, who share the same native language. This bond ensures a seamless learning experience and has kindled incredible success stories. One of our cherished older Chinese students shared the heartwarming tale of how, after taking our classes, she can now read bedtime stories to her grandchild, bridging the generational gap and giving her life a sense of fulfillment. Similarly, one Afghan woman's journey with Stepping Stones allowed her to gain the self-confidence and independence to attend doctor appointments without relying on her younger family members for translation. She can now express herself, comprehend medical advice, and actively participate in healthcare decisions.





Stepping Stone: Chinese Group Visiting City Hall

But it doesn't stop there. As part of our holistic approach to language acquisition and community building, we organize field trips where students can practice what they've learned in class and bond with their classmates and instructors. These outings have become an integral part of the Stepping Stones experience, allowing our students to apply their newfound language skills in real-world situations while fostering deep connections among classmates and instructors. Our students have transformed into confident, autonomous individuals who can navigate their surroundings and communicate effectively, thanks to Stepping Stones. This project stands as a beam of hope and cultural harmony, symbolizing the immense power of language to unite and empower communities.



Stepping Stone: Afghan Group Meetings Within Community

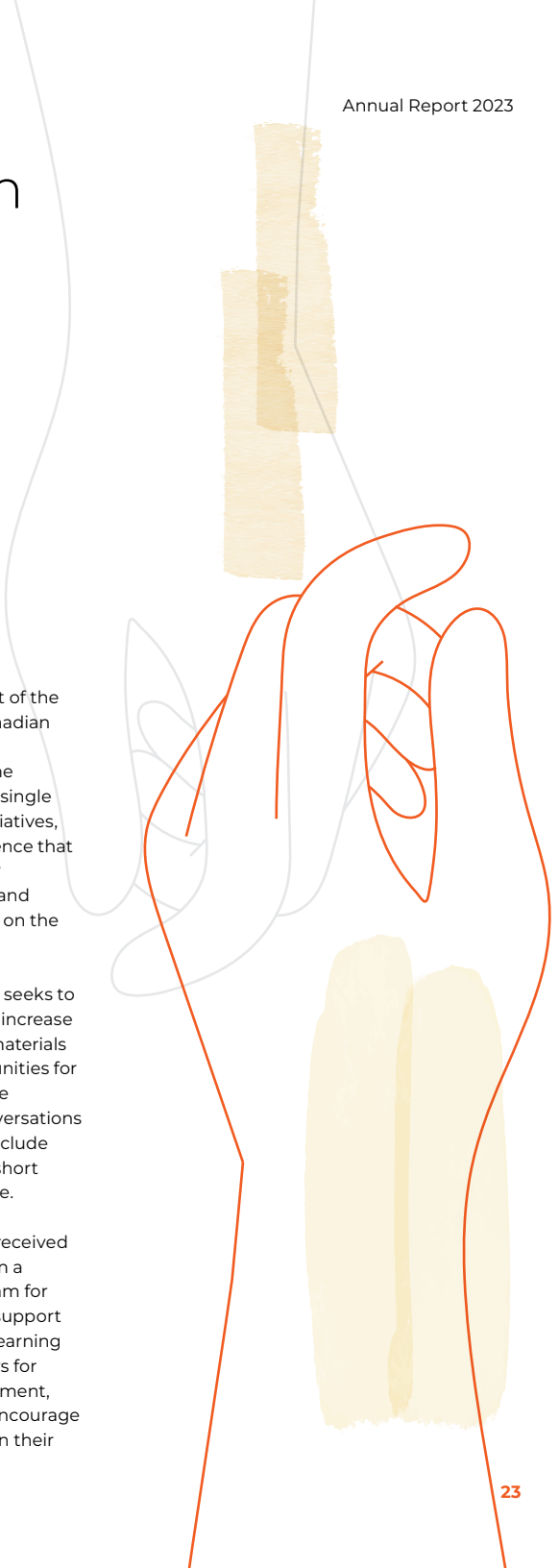
Anti-Racism Program

HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past year, with the support of the Government of Alberta and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF), Diversities was able to develop the Anti-Racism Program from being a single project to multiple projects and initiatives, encompassing a broad target audience that includes children, youth and elderly populations from different cultural and ethnic groups, with a primary focus on the Chinese community in Calgary.

Diversities' Anti-Racism Program seeks to raise awareness of issues of racism, increase access to anti-racism educational materials and resources, and provide opportunities for community members to learn, share knowledge, and be involved in conversations on issues of racism. Our activities include educational workshops, podcasts, short videos, articles, brochures, and more.

In the Spring of 2023, our program received funding to develop a pilot project on a leadership and engagement program for youth. This initiative is intended to support racialized and newcomer youth in learning the skills needed to be ambassadors for change in anti-racism, civic engagement, and community involvement and encourage them to spark meaningful change in their social circles and communities.



Thank You!



We want to thank the many community partners, organizations and individuals who have supported or collaborated with our Anti-Racism Program. It is with your contributions that our program has been able to grow, develop and reach more people in the community.



- ACCT Foundation*
- Act2EndRacism*
- Asian Heritage Foundation*
- Immigrant Services Calgary*
- Calgary Development Learning Initiative (CDLI)*
- Chung Wah Chinese School*
- Clover Living*
- Dr. Gina Ko*
- Ronald Lee*
- And more!*

Anti-Racism Community Engagement Sessions

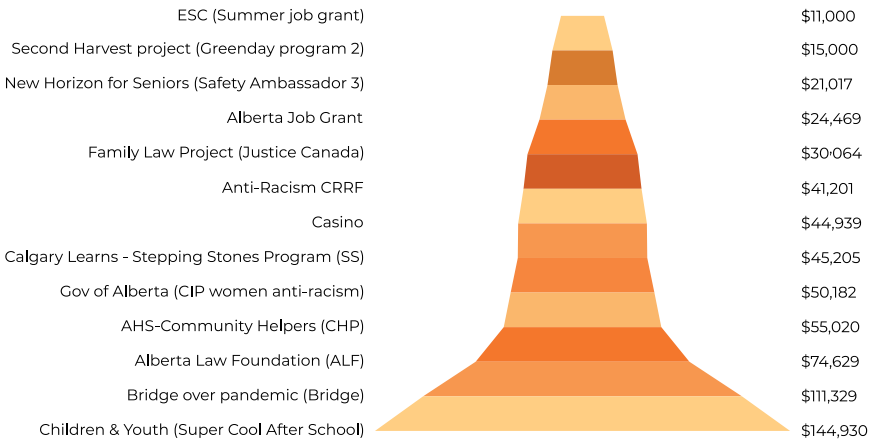
In the first quarter of 2023, our Program facilitated community engagement sessions to learn more about the Chinese community’s perspectives and experiences of anti-Asian racism. We also identified barriers in access to public services, peoples’ knowledge and reservations towards racism reporting, and current views of anti-Asian sentiments among the Chinese community.

Through these engagement sessions, we were able to connect with individuals, gain insight into current community trends and perceptions of anti-Asian racism from different age groups, and learn of the other race-related challenges they experience in accessing public services. It also served as an opportunity to promote awareness and learning on issues of racism and inform the Government of Alberta on issues of racism at the community level.



Financial Overview

Total Funding: \$668,985



Donation & Fundraising

DONATIONS

Donations	\$12,000
Recognized RBC Donation	\$36,775

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising	\$10,000
-------------	----------

MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous	\$11,500
---------------	----------

Annual Budget: \$739,260

Thank You to Our Funders



Canadian Race Relations Foundation



United Way Centraide



Thank You to Our Partners



Board of Directors 2022 - 2023

Norman Poon
Co-Chair

Thomas Cheuk
Co-Chair

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Vice Chair

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Program Coordinator



Renn Chang
Food Security
Program Coordinator



Abby Feng
Bridge Program
Coordinator



Cat Ng
Bridge Program
Assistant



Luna Lin
Communications
Coordinator

Volunteer of the Year

Angela Chu

Angel Chu is one of our most active and enthusiastic volunteers. She has been assisting us in supporting newcomers who are adapting to their lives in Canada. Angela often passionately shares her best knowledge in answering questions, either in group settings or virtual chats. Not only has Angela provided suggestions for newcomers, but she also actively draws on her previous work experiences and connections to help others experiencing challenges in settling down and integrating into Canada. We greatly appreciate the dedication and hard work that Angela has offered since she started her volunteer journey with us. Thank you, Angela, for your ongoing support in making a great impact on supporting newcomers in our community.

Abby Feng
Bridge Program Coordinator

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Immediately after my retirement, I was appointed as a volunteer director for Calgary's Chinese Senior Association for almost 3 years, because of my Chinese language skills and ability to take on complex responsibilities from my past career experiences. I have always wanted to contribute more of my time to helping newcomers settle easily by sharing my own immigration journey and road to success, using my management skills to help them improve resume-writing & job interview skills and to provide mock interviews. In March of 2022, I came across Diversecities' newspaper ad about an upcoming newcomers seminar for Hongkongers. I phoned to volunteer myself, since the program coordinator then knew my credentials, he quickly accepted my volunteerism. We started with Zoom meetings during COVID lockdown, followed by in-person meetings after COVID restrictions were lifted. My greatest satisfaction came from helping newcomers to land on a job in their own profession. Helping newcomers to secure a job is of utmost priority so they can financially support themselves. My most recent success was to connect a newcomer to a job opportunity through my personal network. She was immediately granted an interview and offered a job within 2.5 weeks of me having met this newcomer. I am confident my internal satisfaction will continue to drive my desire to volunteer for Diversecities and other organizations.

Angela Chu
Diversecities's Volunteer

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Diversecities in the Community

February

Chinook Blast Asian Night Market

- Collaborated with the Asian Heritage Foundation and other community partners to facilitate a celebration of Asian culture, heritage, and cross-cultural learning.
- Took place at the City Hall Atrium

March

Diversecities Lunar New Year & Fundraising Gala

- Invited around 200 guests to celebrate the Lunar New Year with a 10-course Chinese banquet
- Event included: photobooth, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, lucky draw, and table draws

May

Asian Health & Wellness in Harmony Park

- Collaborated with the Asian Heritage Foundation and other community partners to promote health and wellness from an Asian perspective, and to celebrate cross-cultural learning
- Reached out to over 800 people

July

Canada Day @ Fort Calgary

- Joined the Asian Heritage Foundation and other community partners in celebrating Canada Day by facilitating various games and activities, crafts, and celebrating the contributions of Asian Canadians

August

Dragon Boat Festival

- Diversecities' Youth Dragon Boat Team placed 2nd in their competition.
- Promoted Diversecities' programs and services to event participants and visitors from the wider Calgary community
- Facilitated a legal knowledge quiz, yard games, mental health bingo, and a prize wheel

Chinatown Street Festival

- Joined the Chinatown BIA and other local organizations and market vendors in celebrating local and Asian culture through music, performances, art, and community
- Promoted Diversecities' programs and services. Activities include: a prize wheel, fundraising from the Women's Group (who raised over \$1000), and a legal knowledge quiz
- Collaborated with the Chinatown BIA to manage and coordinate event volunteers
- Reached out to over 10,000 visitors

SAIT International Student Welcome Fair



THANK YOU!

We express our gratitude for your unwavering support to our team, stakeholders, partners, and volunteers.

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