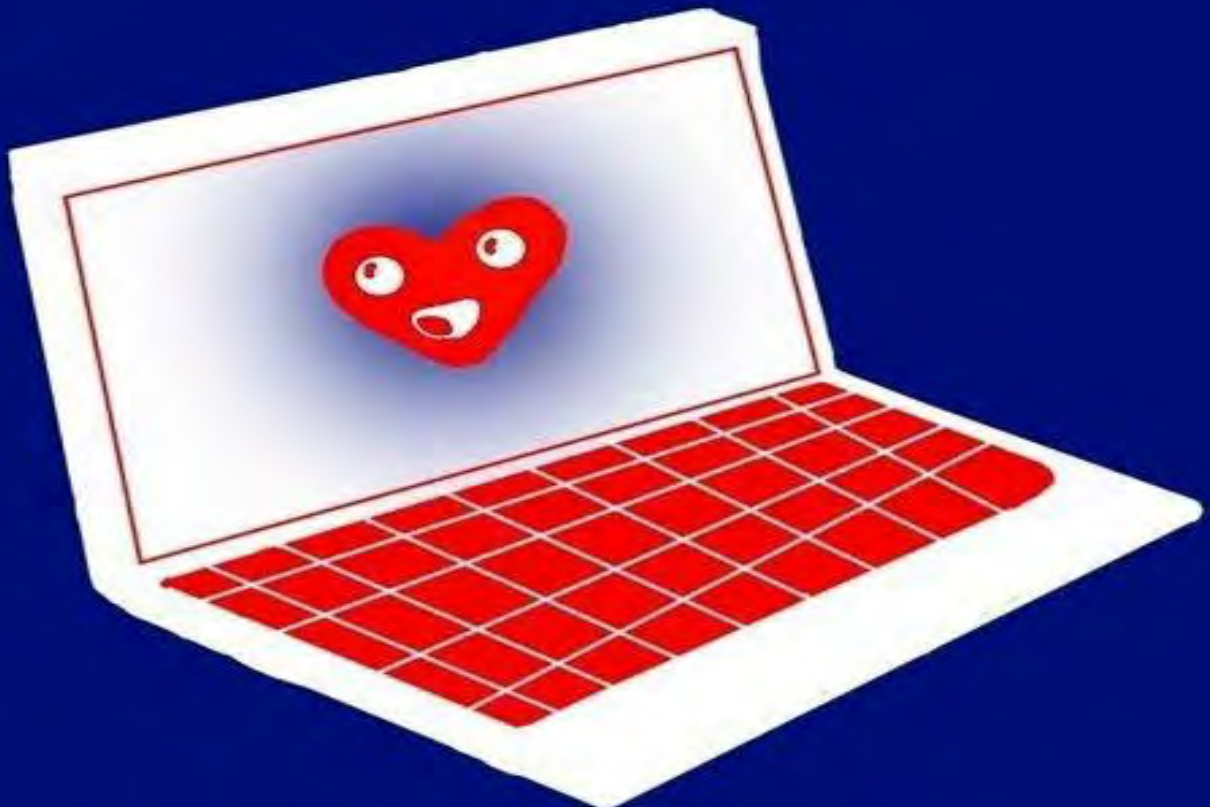




Leave Out Violence (LOVE) Society BC

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2020 to March 2021





Leave Out Violence (LOVE) Society BC

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Cover Art by : Kyle, Leadership youth

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LOVE'S MISSION

LOVE supports youth to thrive through programs and healthy relationships that build emotional intelligence and help overcome the challenges they face. Our participants emerge from LOVE's programs with greater resilience, heightened skills, and the confidence to be inspirational leaders.

LOVE'S LENS

We use a broad youth-driven definition of violence, which allows for issues such as cyber-bullying (cyber-violence), physical, sexual, and emotional violence, marginalization, as well as racism, sexism, homophobia, and all other forms of intentional exclusion, to be included in our conversations about violence.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

What a year it has been!

It comes as no surprise that LOVE BC's 20th year has been challenging – not just for our team, but for many of our incredible young people. But despite the uncertainty, LOVE BC and our youth have embraced change and demonstrated incredible resilience.

I wanted to take the time to thank our staff and partners, who despite the challenges of pivoting to virtual, have continued to deliver essential media arts and leadership programming to young people throughout the Lower Mainland.

In this past year, we also came together to celebrate 20 years of LOVE BC. Thanks to the heroic efforts of our fundraising committee and the generosity of our supporters, we were able to reconnect with many of our former youth, staff and board members and share their powerful stories. And, we were able to raise over \$20,000 to help us get back to in-person programs this fall.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the campaign a success. We are two decades stronger because of your support.

As we look towards 2022 and a hopeful return to “normal,” LOVE BC will do what it always has: adapt to meet the evolving needs of our youth. We're excited for the opportunities that lie ahead – and thankful for all you do for LOVE.

Much LOVE,

Heather Stoutenburg
Chair, Board of Directors
LOVE BC



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Programming in 2020-2021 continued to evolve in virtual and online platforms as we adapted to a full year of social distancing.

Our young people's voices guided our ability and capacity to reach beyond any perceived limits in our programming styles. Staff pursued further professional training, ensuring they had a larger facilitating "tool bag", and this led to being more innovative. By deeply listening to young people's needs throughout the year, our program curriculums and topics for discussions shifted and were enhanced.

The talented and skilled team of staffs, volunteers, and board members passionately and carefully adapted and adopted supports and policies to create as much stability throughout the year to our youth.

One on one and group support for youth provided safe(r) spaces for them to be heard and validated their feelings through times of uncertainty, fears and mental health challenges.

LOVE youth constantly "awed" me. Twenty years of resilience is what our young people have demonstrated. It is our young people's ability to thrive, create and express what is important to them that has helped LOVE BC to continue to provide youth led accessible programming.

As we continue to celebrate and adapt, I look forward to see how LOVE transforms in the next 20 years.

Lambrini Soulos
Executive Director,
LOVE BC



Early LOVE Magazine

PROGRAMMING

MEDIA ARTS PROGRAM

MAP is a free after-school program where youth channel creativity through artistic mediums such as photography, film, and writing. Art is used as a vehicle to explore anti-violence and social justice issues affecting youth and their communities. The Media Arts Program (MAP) was held in virtually throughout the lower mainland including Burnaby, Surrey, and Vancouver during the 2020-2021 program year.



MAP BURNABY & MAP SURREY

Our MAP Programs are an open space to express yourself in many different art forms, while discussing a wide assortment of topics such as: Healthy Relationships, Anti-O, Mental Health, Gender & Sexuality, and many more. We encourage our youth to bring forth any topic they'd like to learn more about, because we want to make sure every youth has access to as much knowledge as they can get their hands on.

MAP had a positive impact on the youth who attended which included youth from other areas in the lower mainland. The groups engagement was genuine, spirited, and intimate.

Going forward, our young people are outstanding leaders and would benefit from further exposure to the arts in person. We look forward to seeing you off line soon.



Pictures: MAP youths Allyship exploration using Miro boards

MAP VAN TECH

MAP at Vancouver Technical Secondary was a small yet dedicated group of youth. They always provided amazing moments of creativity and art making. We explored our lives as rivers in an imaginative environment, developed self care spiderwebs, and imagined our life times as trees. Every opportunity MAP VanTech youth had to create art they took. We used virtual art drawing games, made poetry, and played theater games in a safe virtual setting. We hope to see MAP VanTech youth again in person!

OUTREACH & WORKSHOPS

LOVE BC facilitated outreaches and workshops throughout in the Lower Mainland, approximately twice per month all year long. Our most successful and most often requested topics were cultural sensitivity and healthy relationships. Volunteers participating as co-facilitators for these workshops expressed their joy and sense of fulfillment to be involved in a meaningful way with the conversations that LOVE BC makes space for.

"I learned to stop and breathe, doodle or write the words I was feeling before getting angry." – 13 yrs old youth participant

MORE VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

When the pandemic happened, we knew we had to remain accessible to youth, many of whom see LOVE as their safe and supportive space.

One-on-Ones

LOVE staff continued to provide one on one support to young people through using various tools from texting, instachats and Discord chats etc., staffs remained available and accessible to any youth who may have wanted individual support and time.

Art drop-in

To replace our regular art drop-in program, we created a virtual drop-in space where youth made art and shared creative ideas.



LEADERSHIP

This year's LOVE leadership group was intimate. We spent our time learning, reflecting, and discovering various topics such as community care, self awareness, grieving and loss, mental health, and media literacy.

We discussed what our relationships look like with systems such as the state, city and social media. The importance of placing healthy boundaries between those *relations*.

Leadership youth had opportunities to discuss financial literacy, share personal stories, and laughter. They dived into concepts such as how to have your voice heard in a large city, ways to support each other, resources available to them, and the power of language. How individual needs can conflict, but that doesn't mean our needs can't be met. We spoke about our relationship with the land, the agency of being allies to indigenous communities and having cultural sensitivity.

We also had Kyle, a dedicated leadership member design and create a virtual Pride float for Vancouver's Virtual Pride Parade this year! They went above and beyond with their artistic talents and creativity.

Our leadership youth ended and celebrated the year by facilitating art games for their graduation.

As some leadership folks transition to LOVE alumni, LOVE staff are excited to see them continue being amazing leaders in their community.



Above: LOVE BC's Virtual Pride Contributors

ALUMNI HANGOUTS

Alumni Hangouts were created to reconnect alumni youth with LOVE BC and each other. This continued year of social distancing created much isolation amongst young people. Hangouts became a safe space for alumni to lead conversations that were important to them such as injustices in our city, mental health issues, as well as fears and successes.

During this time, there is no topic that is off the table for discussion.

With respectful communication and a practice of self care, we engaged in some of the more difficult topics impacting individuals and communities. We recognize we all hold different life experiences, and as peers we are committed to listen to all voices in hangouts.



Above: Community Guidelines Miro Board

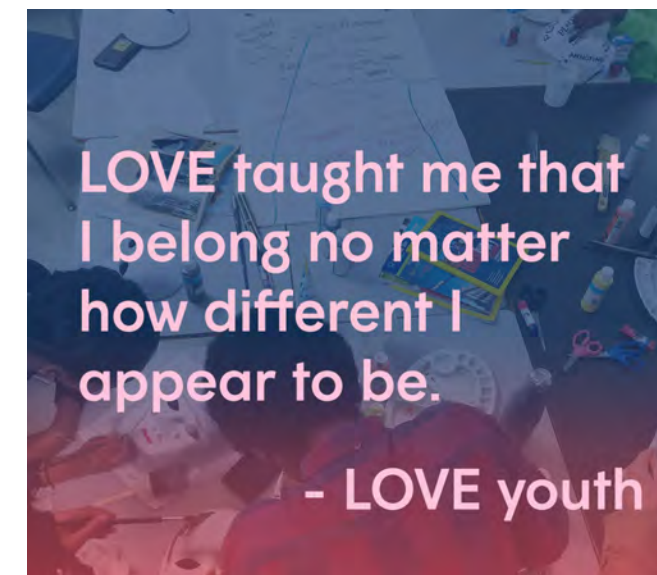


YPINK

Young People Investing in Kindness (YPinK) is a component of MAP where youth overcome experiences of violence with media arts and leadership skills. Youth explored prevention and intervention strategies related to bullying, discrimination, and oppression.

YPinK's virtual program delivered a series of workshops on anti-violence, cyber bullying, use of pronouns, gender identity and expression as well as healthy relationships to youth aged 13 to 18 yrs old.

Participants created poetry, art and social media posts on what it means to be non-judgemental, inclusive and an ally.



SMYLE

Social Media Youth Leaders Empowered (SMYLE) collaborates with multi-barrier youth to identify, explore, and find solutions related to employment.

This project was modified into virtual learning sessions to provide life skills training such as resume writing, budgeting, and portfolio development. Youth were connected to resources related to housing, continuing education, counselling, and financial support during the program project.

Left: SMYLE's Financial Literacy Miro board

"It was safe to talk about depression, I realized I was not alone. We helped each other find better ways to deal with life."

- 15 yrs old Youth participant

synergy > separation

A FEW UPDATES & EVENTS

May 2020

CAMP POTLATCH

LOVE BC's annual regional camp was canceled in person due to the pandemic. This was normally a time when MAP and Leadership youths honed their leadership skills by facilitating their own workshops on topics of interest. For many youth in our programs it is their first time away from home or having a camp experience such as, participating in outdoor activities such as archery, hiking, water sports, and campfires. We look forward to resuming LOVE BC's regional camp in 2021-2022

August 2021

VIRTUAL PRIDE

LOVE staffs, volunteers and youth participated in Vancouver Pride's virtual pride parade with a short video.

January to March 2021

20th ANNIVERSARY

LOVE BC launched our 20th Anniversary Campaign through the sharing of Lyla Hunter's story. Lyla's story as a LOVE youth and now an adult ally was filmed and edited by the talented Steve Hargreaves.

Many former LOVE BC youth, volunteers, staffs and board members reached out to celebrate and share their stories.

"WOW! 20 years of LOVE. It feels like yesterday when I walked into a classroom at Byrne Creek and started MAP. The folx I met at MAP are still close friends. We still share stories of camp, making videos, eating pizza together and all the times we laughed and cried together. I will never forget those times." - NH, former Love youth.

June 13, 2021

GRADUATION

Graduation was a little different this year in that it was held virtually! Despite this change, staff, youth, and Board members and volunteers shared a memorable and positive experience.

Staff decorated their spaces, youth shared art and LOVE program experiences, and everyone participated in youth led games.

Congratulations to Lennox for winning the grad T-shirt design on the right.

All graduates received LOVE swag and sketch books as a part of their graduation experience.



Artwork by Lennox

PROGRAMMING FACTS

Perspectives from surveyed LOVE youth, staff, alumni, and Board.

TOP 3 REASONS FOR COMING TO LOVE

To be with like minded folks

To discuss & learn anti-oppression and anti-violence topics

To be in a safe and accessible space

WHAT LOVE DOES WELL

91%

Fostering youth driven programming (e.g. supporting youths to lead conversations, doing activities youth are interested in, etc).

87%

Providing a safe and accessible space for all young people

80%

Supporting youth leadership development

MOST HIGHLY RATED WORKSHOPS

92%

...of respondents rated these workshops as "very good"

Anti-violence and anti-oppression

Healthy Relationships

Healthy Boundaries and Self Care

MESSAGE FROM THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The compliance committee of the board of directors, worked on the terms of reference for the committee and the LOVE code of conduct, both were approved by the board in March of 2021. The committee refocused and prioritized these two documents mid 2020.

The committee started by looking at LOVE's past documents and looking to other related organizations to see what could be learnt. Once both documents were drafted they were provided to STAFF for feedback and input and then to the BOARD for further feedback. The feedback and input were incorporated and are now live documents. The terms of reference document is being used to guide the compliance committees work and will be useful when on boarding new committee members. The code of conduct is being used by staff and others who are work directly with LOVE.



LOVE BC fundraising and awareness campaign 2013.

Love helped me find my voice. I am shy, now I am able to tell my story and feel safe. Painting and writing [have] given me tools I never knew I could use to share my feelings.
- MAP youth (age 16)

MESSAGE FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The LOVE BC board and fundraising committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the corporations, foundations, and individuals who gave generously this year to support LOVE BC's mission.

The fundraising committee focused on a matching fund campaign for LOVE BC's 20th Anniversary, raising \$11,325 from our amazing donors, \$10,000 of which was matched by Scotiabank.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation, thank you Lyla for sharing your LOVE story, and thank you to our friends at Scotiabank for making this campaign such a success. We look forward to supporting a return to in-person programs and helping the amazing work LOVE BC staff do.

With LOVE

Andy Price
Chair, Fundraising Committee



"I graduated from LOVE over 10 years ago. I have fond memories of making friends, taking photographs and National Camp. A few weeks ago I saw Lyla's story on LOVE's FB page and I was reminded how much I loved photography. I picked up my camera and everyday since I have been taking photos- my new self care. Thank you LOVE." - Amy, former Love youth

FINANCIALS

LEAVE OUT VIOLENCE (LOVE) SOCIETY BC Statement of Financial Position March 31 2021

	2021
Assets	
Current	
Cash and cash equivalents (note 4)	\$ 201,030
Accounts receivable	17,738
GST receivable	154
Prepaid expenses	5,434
	\$ 244,356
Liabilities	
Current	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 5)	\$ 8,908
Deferred contributions (note 6)	122,128
	131,036
Net assets	
Internally restricted contingency reserve	58,985
Unrestricted	54,335
	113,320
	\$ 244,356

Financial Committee

2020-2021 was a challenge for LOVE BC, with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic taking effect just as the latest fiscal year was beginning. In addition to the need to shift to providing virtual services, we also were faced with attempting to determine what the impact would be financially.

The Finance Committee worked together to envision a number of different financial forecasts and to update the budget based on a worst-case scenario. Happily, we were able to find alternative sources of funding including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and additional grants, leading to us achieving a small surplus for the fiscal year.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the leadership team and volunteers who have contributed to the Finance Committee over the past year. As a direct result of your efforts, we were able to maintain full funding for our programs and ensure staff at LOVE were empowered to focus on our core mission of providing services to young people in our communities.

Laura Froese, Treasurer

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

GOVERNMENT

BC Gaming Community Grant
City of Surrey
City of Vancouver- DSS
BC Arts Council
UW-ECSF Funding
CEWS

CORPORATE

Acuity Pilates
CKNW Kids' Fund
BlueShore Financial
First West Foundation - Envision
Financial Community Endowment
TELUS - Friendly Future Foundation
Coast Capital Savings Credit Union

FOUNDATIONS AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Connor, Clark & Lunn Foundation Home Depot Foundation
Jacob and Sandra Silberberg Family Fund
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
SurreyCares Community Foundation
Zacks Family Charitable Foundation
Chris Spencer Foundation
United Way of Calgary
Vancouver Foundation

PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Catherine Hart
Denali YoungWolfe
Maverick Trevor
Tonye Aganaba
Elana Mabrito

Thank you to all our program supports!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Broadway Youth Resource Centre
Byrne Creek Secondary School
Camp Potlatch
Collingwood Neighbourhood House
grunt gallery
Kwantlen Park Secondary School
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
PeerNet
Richmond Addictions Services Society
Richmond Centre Community Centre
Vancouver Technical Secondary School
Vancouver Pride Society
VanCity

STAFF

Lambrini Soulos, Executive Director
Rabbit Richards, Program Manager
Carolina Duque, Program Facilitator
Marcey Amaya, Program Facilitator
Kat Gilliat, Alumni Co-Facilitator
Charmaine Li, Office & Com Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Heather Stoutenburg
Lyla Hunter
Tracy Rawa
Elaine Zitner
Laura Froese
Andy Price
Kanako Motohashi

Board Committee Volunteers

Troy Chelsey, Mike Jones, Steven Hargreaves, Sucheta Singh, Cara Simpson
Julie Smith.

Thank you to all our individual donors!





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