

Strathcona Community Centre

FOOD CHARTER

This Food Charter presents a vision for food programming at the Strathcona Community Center (SCC). It sets out the SCC's commitment to integrating health, community, and food with recreation, and provides the framework for the development of centre-wide food policy. The SCC is located in the Downtown East Side of Vancouver and serves a wide diversity of people. Systemic challenges faced by many in the community include high-cost of living, food insecurity, social isolation, violence, homelessness, and addiction, among many others. SCC food programs have always aimed to address these challenges in a respectful way by creating a welcoming and inclusive place.

OUR PRINCIPLES

The SCC is committed to food programming that:

- Meets people where they are at;
- Works towards dignified access to healthy, safe, and culturally appropriate food for everyone in our community;
- Links and integrates healthy food with recreation programs and community engagement so that more participants can fully engage without feeling hungry;
- Fosters community connection through the preparation and sharing of food;
- Creates welcoming and supportive learning environments and opportunities in areas such as dignified food access, preparation, growing, and food recovery, among others;
- Celebrates Vancouver's multicultural food traditions and cultures; and
- Seeks to be operationally 'green'.

OUR ACTIONS

To align programs and activities with these principles, the SCC can:

- Increase equality in food access for all members of the community;
- Provide healthy food choices through food and childcare programs;
- Set quality standards for food donations;
- Be leaders in integrating food programs with recreation as well as in creating culturally innovative programs;
- Expand urban agriculture and food recovery programs;
- Eliminate food waste from community centre programs;
- Develop opportunities where community members can connect and develop friendships over preparing and eating food;
- Participate in the local and regional food networks to support food system planning, policies, and practices;
- Celebrate our city's diverse food cultures;
- Provide opportunities for leadership and active citizenship through food programs;
- Create welcoming and inclusive learning environments for everyone;
- Become a community food asset in the event of an emergency.

The Strathcona Community Centre Association Food Charter aligns with the food movement across Canada that promotes social justice and a sustainable, resilient food system.

- Spring 2019-