

BEACHES SANDBOX



FIRST EDITION **Annual Report**



Sept 1, 2023 – Aug 31, 2024

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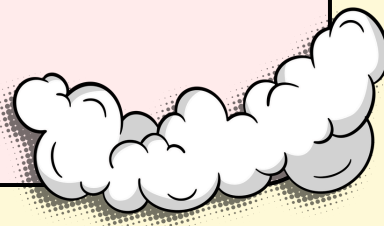


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*"I think that I can regain my energy and active lifestyle at Beaches Sandbox. [I've] met amazing people here, all kinds of ages, nationalities and beliefs. **I think being together under Sandbox roof will be great and very special for all of us.**"*

- Rozelin, Program Participant



Executive Summary

In just two years, Beaches Sandbox has blossomed into a vibrant community hub, welcoming thousands of visitors. People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds have found meaningful connections through our interest based programming, and I'm proud to see the community coming together to foster an inclusive, creative environment filled with joy and collaboration.



This first annual report is more than just a look back at the numbers; it's a reflection of the heart and soul of our organization. It's about the people we serve and the lasting impact we are making in our community.



Inside, you'll discover our most significant achievements of the year, how we are fostering connections, exciting plans for the future to deepen our impact, and how YOU can help continue this important and FUN journey.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community's growth and success. Together, we're building something truly special.

Let's dive in!
Keep Smiling,

Jordan

Jordan Safer
Executive Director

A Message from our Founders

Two years ago, we had a simple dream: to create a space where people could come together, have fun, and feel a sense of belonging.

Today, Beaches Sandbox is a community home for thousands of people—offering free and affordable programs, cultural experiences, and opportunities for connection across all ages and backgrounds.

This year, we saw increased program participation, expanded accessibility initiatives, and deeper cultural programming through key partnerships. To our staff, volunteers, donors, and guests—thank you. You are the heartbeat of Beaches Sandbox.

We can't wait to see what the next year holds!
With gratitude,

Paulette & Jason

Paulette & Jason
Founders



What is Beaches Sandbox?

Beaches Sandbox is a charitable community centre that combats social isolation and loneliness through interest-based programming, bringing people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds together to create, connect, and have fun.



**A happier,
more-connected
society.**



**To create high-quality
experiences for healthy,
meaningful connections.**



FUN - Help people live a happier life.

INCLUSION - Welcome, respect and consider the needs of people of all ages, abilities, cultures and circumstance.

SUSTAINABILITY - Creating lasting social, financial, and environmental impact.



What we do?

We offer a range of programming, from culinary to fitness, music, visual arts, camps and more, and we're always evolving to meet the needs of our community.



Here's a glance at the types of programming at Beaches Sandbox:

- Activities for caregivers & tots (0-4)
- Activities for kids (5+)
- Activities for adults & seniors
- Accessible and inclusive programs
- Workshops
- Special events
- Rentals
- Volunteer program

Our Impact

Connection is the heart of a thriving community.

When you support Beaches Sandbox, you're creating opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to connect, build meaningful friendships, and foster a sense of belonging, all while having fun.

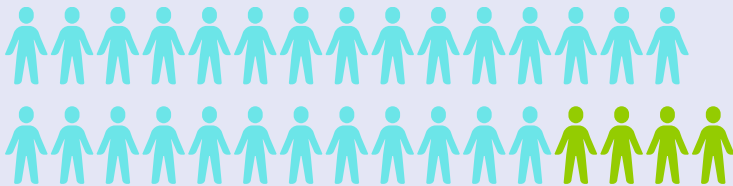


MEANINGFUL GROWTH

With the strategic growth of our operating team and a new focus on our demographic alignment over the past year, we've expanded our programming, refined our marketing, diversified funding, and, most importantly, enhanced the experience for our community.



16,000 Visits From 1,500 Guests - With many return visits, we foster deep community connections.



F23 - 12,000 Visits

F24 - 16,000 Visits

33% increase in yearly visits

3,000+ Hours of Programming - Offering wide range of consistent, high-quality activities for kids, seniors and families means there are plenty of ways for people to take-part.



90% in-house programming
10% community rentals



CULTURAL & SPECIAL EVENTS

We have become a hub to celebrate diverse cultures, share stories, and experience live performances. By teaming up with community partners, we foster learning opportunities and provide a platform for underrepresented artists and genres.



Live Music Nights - Provide a unique experience for local music lovers and fill a gap in Toronto's performing arts scene.

New Partnerships - Collaborations with Hopes Indigenous Training Network & CaribbeanTales help to amplify diverse voices and create new opportunities for cross cultural exchange.



CAMPS

Our camps provide a fun, supportive environment where kids can explore, learn, and build friendships, while providing an option for care over the summer for families.



140+ Campers - Welcoming children across Winter, March Break, and Summer Camps.

Teen Leadership Opportunities - Providing volunteer roles for teens through our Counsellor-in-Training program.

Inclusive Support - Bringing in additional staff to support campers with autism, ensuring an accessible and welcoming experience for all.

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

We are committed to breaking down barriers—both financial and physical—to ensure that everyone in our community can participate and thrive. Our accessibility initiatives focus on creating inclusive spaces and offering financial support where it is needed most.



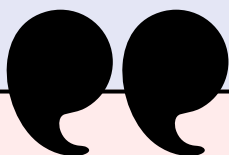
Impact



Accessibility Partnerships – Collaborated with Autism Ontario, Hands of Fire, and other organizations to enhance access to accessible programming in our community

Accessibility Improvements – Implemented Braille signage, a website redesign, and staff training to create a more inclusive environment.

\$8,000 in Financial Assistance – Provided financial support to lower barriers for various programs and camps, making our offerings affordable to everyone.



“My brain injury symptoms appear during class, yet you somehow manage to keep me going and keeping pace. For a couple of hours, I feel (almost) like everyone else.”
— Lori, Program Participant



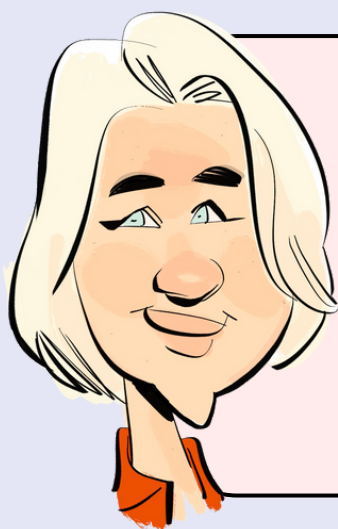
CONNECTING THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

We have formalized our volunteer program, bringing on a dedicated volunteer coordinator (volunteer), defining clear volunteer roles, and introducing a system for tracking hours. These steps have created a more streamlined volunteer experience making it easier for community members to get involved and give back.

Every volunteer hour helps us to expand our capacity to serve the community, increase our reach and deepen our community connections.



**16 volunteers
600+ hours**



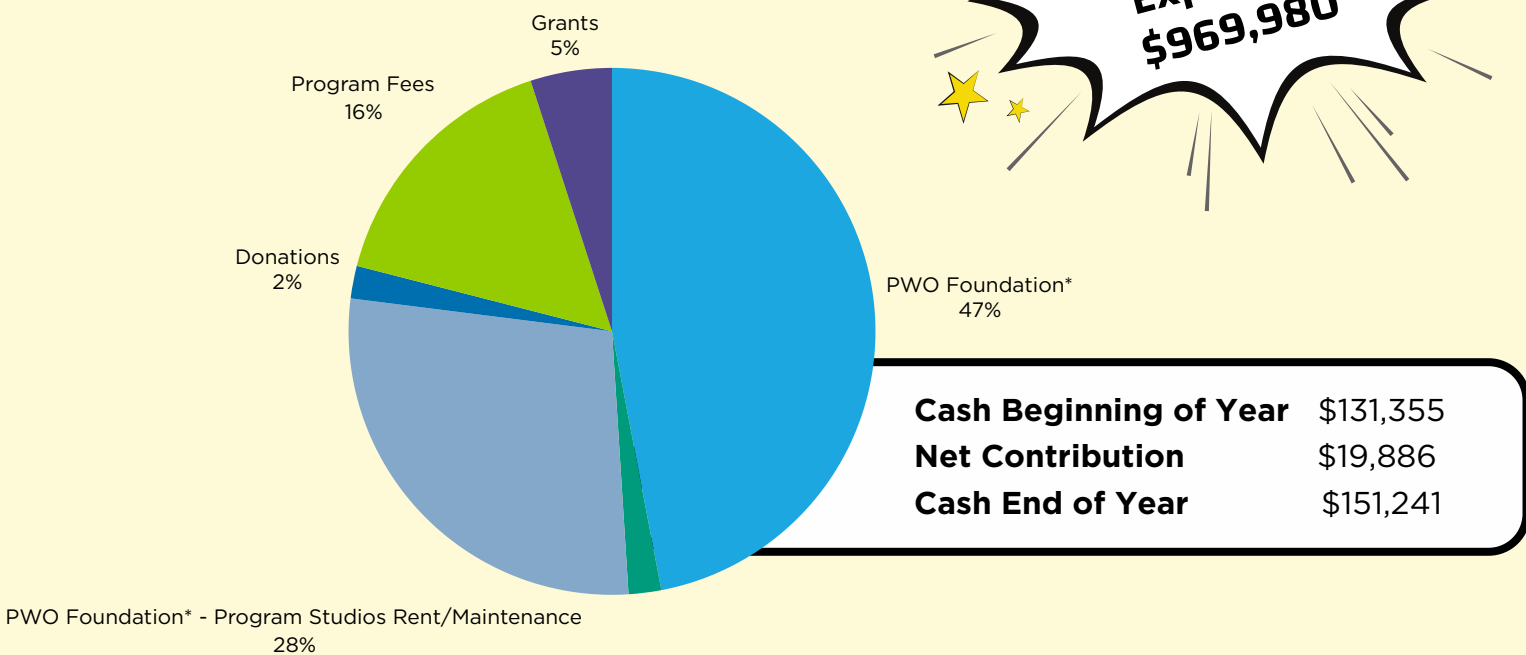
I volunteer at Beaches Sandbox for several reasons, most importantly to give back to my local community. Sandbox has created a hub in the community, and I like running into Beaches Sandbox community members on the street - it makes me feel more connected to the Beaches neighbourhood!

Christine

**Christine Eady,
Volunteer Coordinator**

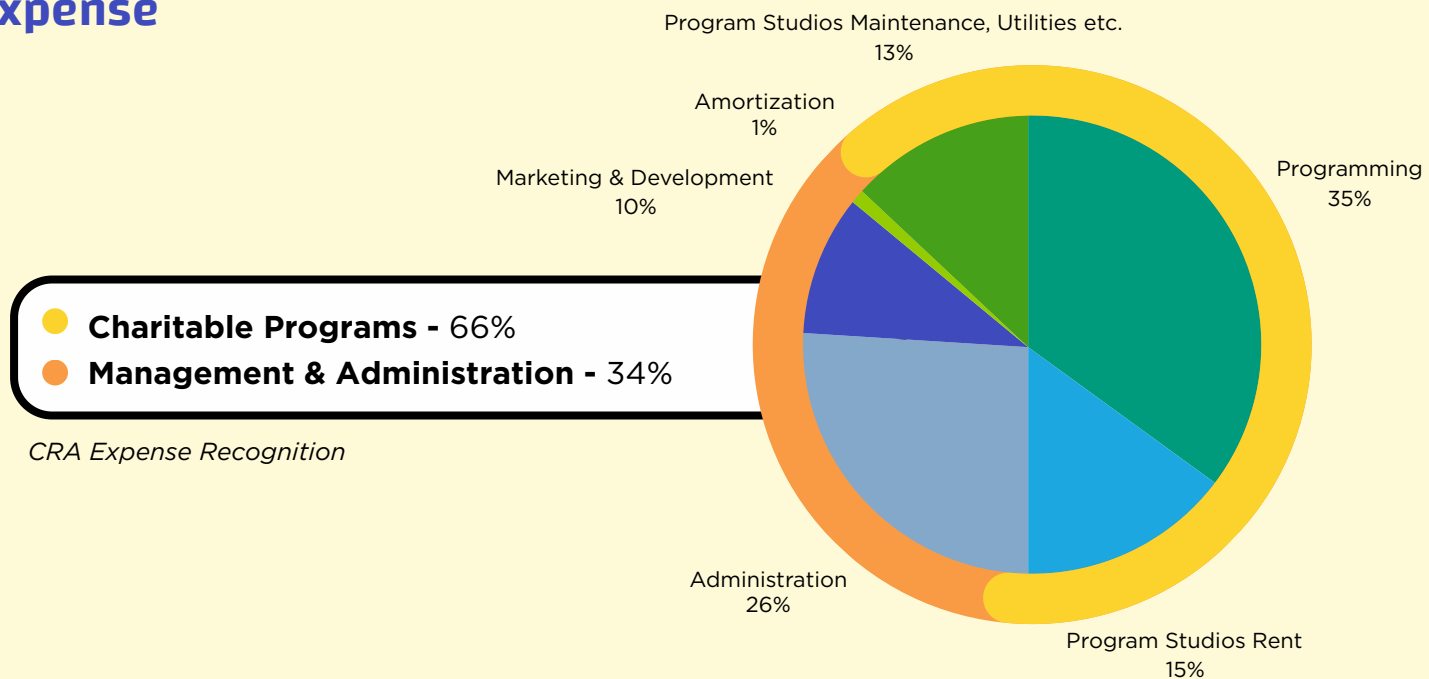
Financial Overview

Revenue



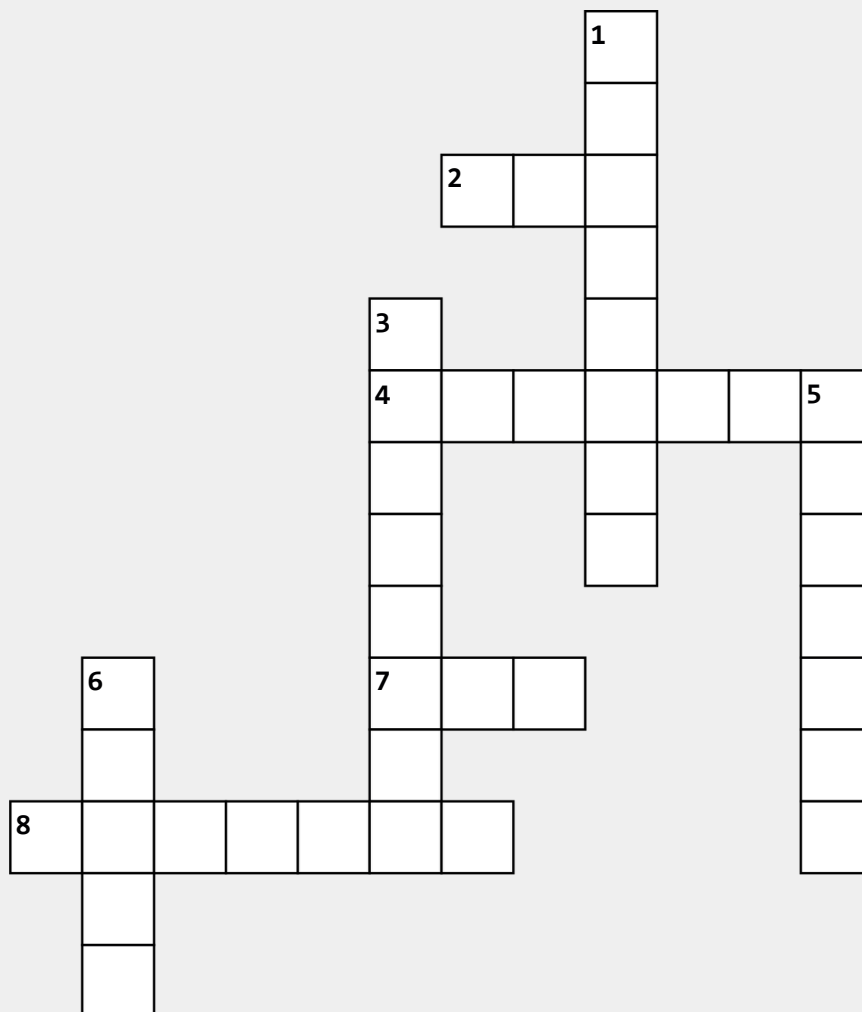
**Multi-year agreement for continued core funding support from the Paul W. O’Leary Foundation*

Expense





You've Made it Halfway Through the Annual Report! Remember to take a moment to have FUN with this Crossword



Across

2. Create. Connect. Have ____.
4. Hands of Fire is a group of _____
7. The anniversary year Beaches Sandbox is celebrating at the time of this report.
8. Which neighbourhood?

Down

1. Helping with food security in the neighbourhood and promoting volunteering, Club____, Jr.
3. She is a founder of Beaches Sandbox
5. Kids summertime playbox.
6. The street that Beaches Sandbox is on.

Answers

1. Sandwich 2. Fun 3. Paulette 4. Artists 5. Sandbox 6. Queen 7. Two 8. Beaches

Plans for 2024-25

- **Expanding Cultural Programming** –
Live performances, diverse workshops,
and community art projects.
- **Increasing Building Utilization** –
To maximize community benefit.
- **Diversifying Funding Streams** –
New grants, corporate giving, and
charitable gaming opportunities.

**Targeting
18,000 Visits**



8,000+ Sandwiches were made in Club Sandwich Jr. by young volunteers to donate to local missions and food banks. Next year, our goal is 10,000 sandwiches!

Partner Recognition

Founding Supporter

PWO
PAUL W. O'LEARY
FOUNDATION

Government, Foundations & Sponsors



Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Financé par le
gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

BMO



THE CAREER FOUNDATION
Developing Human Potential

FONDATION
SOCAN
FOUNDATION

Community Partners



Decor, Prizing & In-Kind Supporters



AMSTERDAM
Brewery

Partake
Brewing



Founders Paulette
O'Leary & Jason Schuy



A special thank you to our growing
individual donor community!

Get Involved!

What your donation supports:

\$50.00 - Supports a day of Free Play for Caregivers & Tots. Help young families connect.

\$100.00 - Supports a month of free seniors socials. Help keep seniors connected.

\$425.00 - Sends a child to camp for a week through financial assistance. Help break down financial barriers to participation.



Participate

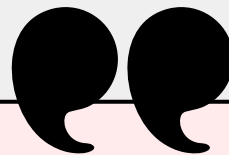
Check out our wide range of programs, workshops and events! You belong here.

beachessandbox.com/all-programs

Volunteer

Every volunteer hour helps us to expand our capacity to serve the community, increase our reach and deepen our community connections.

beachessandbox.com/volunteer



Beaches Sandbox has been welcoming, appreciative and exhibits a kind of atmosphere that offers many positive opportunities. I have seen friendships develop and supportive networks flourish.

- Carole, Volunteer



Meet the Team

BEACHES

SANDBOX



MEET OUR BOARD



**Paulette O'Leary &
Jason Schuy**
Founders



Runa Dhar-Whitaker
Director



Kate Zaparanuik
Secretary



Aracely Cruz
Director



Frances Anderson
Advisor



Danielle Robinson
Advisor



Marc Hull-Jacquin
Advisor



Rob Lang
Treasurer

MEET OUR TEAM



Jordan Safer
Executive
Director



Samantha Little
Sr Manager,
Programming



Meghan McCready
Sr Manager,
Marketing & Development



Sarah Thompson
Manager,
Guest Relations



Anne Borkowski
Coordinator,
Guest Relations



Theresa Anderson
Coordinator,
Guest Relations



Braedan Hill
Assistant, Guest Relations,
Rentals & Events



Christine Eady
Volunteer
Coordinator



Plus amazing instructors, facilitators and curators who make every program, workshop and events unique and fun!

Land Acknowledgment

At Beaches Sandbox, we acknowledge that the land we stand on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. This acknowledgment is only a first step in honouring the land on which we operate and is only meaningful when combined with accountable and informed action.

Together, we're making the Beaches a more connected, vibrant community.

Let's stay connected:



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

