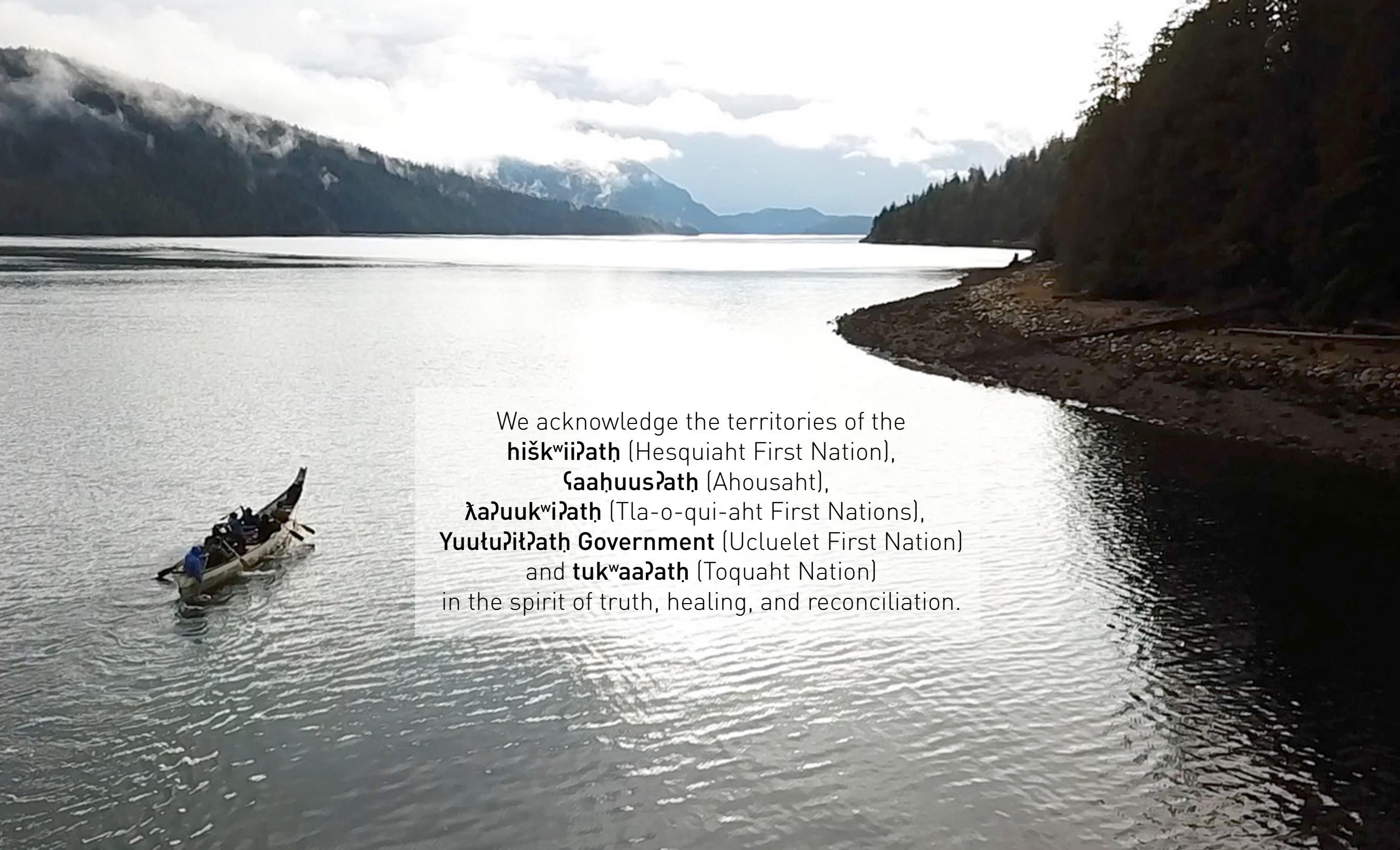




2022 Annual Report

Globally-minded • Ecosystem-oriented • Community-driven





We acknowledge the territories of the  
**hiškwiiʔath** (Hesquiaht First Nation),  
**ʕaahʔuusʔath** (Ahousaht),  
**ʕaʔuukʔiʔath** (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations),  
**Yuutʔiʔath Government** (Ucluelet First Nation)  
and **tukʔaaʔath** (Toquaht Nation)  
in the spirit of truth, healing, and reconciliation.



# From the Co-chairs

For the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT), 2022 was a year relearning how to gather and collaborate in the post-pandemic context to best promote the health of individuals, communities, and ecosystems throughout the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region. Contributing to this sense of change and re-emergence were the many new team members we welcomed following the departure of several long-term directors and staff. We're grateful to those who have contributed their time and talents to the CBT in recent years.

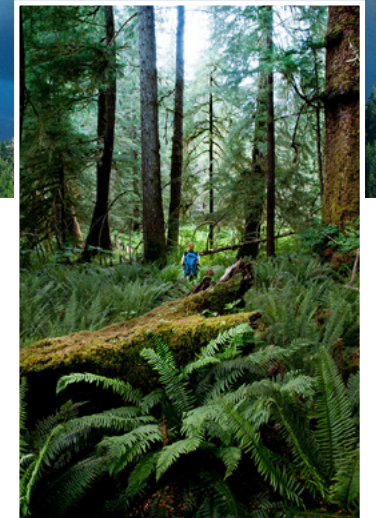
Continuing on our commitment to become a more equity driven organization, we began exploring changes to our granting programs: changes directly informed by community members leading the work we support. We conducted a deep review of the CBT Vital Grants program, in which project leaders provided feedback to make Vital Grants—and all CBT grants—better able to effectively meet the needs of communities and organizations.

We also made significant progress towards our goal of building the Biosphere Centre, a regional hub where innovative programs provide opportunities to learn, connect, and share ideas, and where, ultimately, we craft solutions that benefit all people in the region. Following a successful property rezoning in April, significant work on both design and fundraising began in earnest.

*Looking ahead, and grounded by our reflection on where we stand today and how we came to be here, we're feeling hopeful. We are inspired by the fresh perspective and energy of new team members and are moving forward in a community-informed direction.*

## **Ruth Charleson and Nicky Ling**

Co-chairs, Board of Directors, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust



## **Board of Directors**

Ariane Shaw – At-large – Director

Elyse Goatcher-Bergmann – At-large – Director

Mike Davis – District of Tofino – Treasurer

Moses Martin – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations – Interim Director

Naomi Mack – Toquaht Nation – Secretary

Nicky Ling – Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Co-chair

Ruth Charleson – Hesquiaht First Nation – Co-chair

Tom Campbell – Ahousaht – Director

Toni Buston – District of Ucluelet – Director

Zoltan Schafer – Yuuʔitʔath Government – Director

## **Board Advisors**

Kendall Woo & Olga Nassinovkaia – Environment and Climate Change Canada

Linda Higgins & Denise Koshowski – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Jazz Amyot & Dave Tovell – Parks Canada

Rhonda Morris & Jennifer Sibbald – Province of British Columbia



# Vision

The community of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region (CSBR) will live sustainably in a healthy ecosystem, with a diversified economy, and strong, vibrant, and united cultures, while embracing the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations living philosophies of *iisaak* (living respectfully), *qwa' aak qin tiič mis* (life in the balance), and *hišukniš čawaak* (everything is one and interconnected).



# Our Team



Brooke Wood – Manager of Community Initiatives

Colin Robinson – Operations and Communications Coordinator

Erika Goldt – Eat West Coast Lead

Jason Sam – Program Coordinator

Michelle Hall – Campaign and Donor Relations Lead

Nicole Gerbrandt – Director of Education, West Coast NEST

Rebecca Hurwitz – Executive Director

Rosalee Brown – Administrative Assistant

Tsimka Martin – Literacy Coordinator

Verena Merkel – Finance Coordinator

Champions,  
change-makers,  
builders, stewards.  
Researchers, helpers,  
advocates, allies. We are  
a catalyst for positive change  
and a sustainable future.



# Co-leading Sustainability Knowledge Development @ Education

## Biodiversity Conservation in the Biosphere

The CBT is coordinating a project to support and strengthen biodiversity conservation activities in the region. Looking beyond traditional parks and protected areas, the project provides funding and logistical support for “other effective conservation measures,” including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, that can contribute to Canada’s conservation area targets.

In 2022, the CBT provided support for numerous stewardship and restoration projects including:

- Hesquiaht Harbour Slope Stabilization – Hesquiaht Nation and Redd Fish Restoration Society
- Atleo River Watershed Restoration Project – Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society and Redd Fish Restoration Society
- Tribal Parks Guardian Support for Stewardship & Conservation – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations
- WildSafeBC Human-wildlife conflict mitigation – BC Conservation Foundation

*In collaboration with the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association, the CBT played a lead role in securing funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada to support activities in the region and in 18 other UNESCO biosphere regions across Canada.*

## Indigenous-led Westcoast Stewardship Corridor

Administered by the CBT, the Indigenous-led Westcoast Stewardship Corridor (ILWSC) is an initiative to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous land and water stewards along the west coast of Vancouver Island—from Hesquiaht in the north to Sc’ianew (Beecher Bay) in the south—to collaborate, share knowledge, and plan for greater ecological, cultural, spiritual, and economic activity.

In 2022, the ILWSC Steering Committee connected with representatives from each of the 13 First Nations within the corridor to introduce the concept of the initiative, to better understand each Nation’s stewardship visions and values, and to develop an overall vision that best aligns with each Nation. Eleven of the 13 Nations participated and shared perceived barriers, challenges, and opportunities that participating in the ILWSC Corridor might present and areas for future collaboration. This effort resulted in a report presenting the key findings of the research and the next steps forward. This research was funded by CBT and Nature United.

## Sydney Inlet Soundscape Monitoring Program

With permission from Ahousaht and in collaboration with local researchers, the CBT coordinates an ongoing acoustic ecology project in a remote inlet in Clayoquot Sound. 2022 research activities included deployment of under-water microphones for a total of four weeks over two deployment periods in winter and spring. Acoustic recordings were also conducted in three terrestrial locations.



# Strengthening Healthy Communities, Ecosystems, and Economies

The CBT's food security initiative, **Eat West Coast**, continued to help local communities and organizations develop effective, community-based responses to food-access challenges and increase knowledge around making healthy, affordable food choices.

## Significant initiatives in 2022 include:

- co-coordinating the Coastal Agriculture Roundtable, a standing committee of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District focused on advancing regional food production,
- continuing our ongoing food preservation program providing knowledge and equipment, launching of a program focusing on food and social connectedness for seniors and elders, and nourishing families in need with good food boxes.



## Project spotlight: Introduction to Jewellery Making for Youth



With the goal of introducing youth to a new craft and showcasing how arts can be a career focus, Tofino-based LF Jewellery led an inclusive jewellery-making workshop, expanding the number of spots available to ensure everyone interested was able to participate. Youth had the chance to learn and create necklaces and rings, building friendships, confidence, and hands-on creative skills. *Way to go everyone!*



## Neighbourhood Small Grants

Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) provide individuals with \$50-500 to support grassroots community-building initiatives. With increasing ability to get together in person again, NSG supported many gatherings in 2022 that had not been possible in recent years.

Our program awarded 33 grants (\$13,900) over two cycles:

**green grants** in the spring (19 grants for a total of \$7,000)

**culture grants** in the fall (14 grants for a total of \$6,900)

We continued our collaboration with the Tofino-Ucluelet Culinary Guild, which supplemented food-related projects with in-kind grocery donations.

Thank you to Westcoast Community Resources Society for continuing to partner with the CBT in support of this project and to all of the funders and project leaders for making 2022 such a successful year for Neighbourhood Small Grants!



# Empowering Youth

## Education Awards

In partnership with Genus Capital Management, the CBT grants two \$12,608 education awards annually. The awards are based on community involvement, personal reference letters, a proposed education plan, and academic achievement.

The Central Region Nuu-chah-nulth Education Award is shared between Jaden Frank and Alden Campbell.

**Jaden Frank**, a Tla-o-qui-aht member living in Port Alberni, is studying to be an early childhood educator (ECE) at Vancouver Island University. Jaden volunteered for years helping with community events like Elder's Christmas dinners and potlatches. Jaden would not only serve Elders or help with event logistics, but also provide childcare, noting that from a young age she always loved children and babies. Jaden says she is excited to become an ECE because it involves *"not only playing and caring for children, but also teaching them."*



**Alden Campbell**, from Ahousaht, is studying culinary arts at VIU with the dream of experimenting with cooking techniques, focusing on bringing people together over food. A highly involved community member, Alden planned and led youth activities at the Ahousaht rec centre, played volleyball and basketball, shared his love of food by cooking dinner for special occasions like feasts and birthday parties, and always lending a hand cleaning or setting up events at community spaces.



## Truth and Reconciliation at Ucluelet Secondary School

With support from the Legacy of Hope Foundation, the CBT coordinated a Truth and Reconciliation project at Ucluelet Secondary School in collaboration with students, staff, and community members in September 2022. Culminating in an exhibit attended by hundreds of community members on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, six classes were involved in a range of different activities throughout September including:

- hearing from residential school survivors,
- creating a poetry book honouring survivors,
- researching the TRC Calls to Action and their current progress,
- analyzing the wording associated with official apologies, and
- designing and printing orange t-shirts.



**Pani Ayoubizadeh** from Ucluelet received the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Education award and is studying science at the University of British Columbia with the goal of becoming a cardiac surgeon. At Ucluelet Secondary School, she volunteered with the school laboratory, the Surfrider Youth Club, student council, and competed on the cross-country running team. She also volunteered at the Ucluelet Aquarium and was a member of the British Columbia Youth Parliament. Pani says, *"I hope to inspire other immigrants like me to step out of their comfort zone and try to get involved in their new communities. Home is not simply where you were born, but it is the place where you step out of your comfort zone and pursue your passions with purpose."*

# Establishing the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre

The CBT has continued momentum towards the establishment of a Biosphere Centre, a culturally safe knowledge hub in Tla-o-qui-aht Territory. The Centre will bring the communities of Tla-o-qui-aht, Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, Yuuʔitʔath, Toquaht, Ucluelet, and Tofino to advance reconciliation, youth empowerment, climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. We envision a place to unite people through grassroots initiatives and place-based experiential learning, generating a legacy of social responsibility, economic resiliency, and environmental sustainability.

With approximately 9,400 square feet of purpose-designed space over three levels, the Centre includes flexible indoor and covered outdoor teaching and exhibition space, research & collaboration spaces, an Elders room, a publicly accessible library & archives area, a teaching kitchen, an interactive UNESCO visitor centre, and 2 residential housing units.

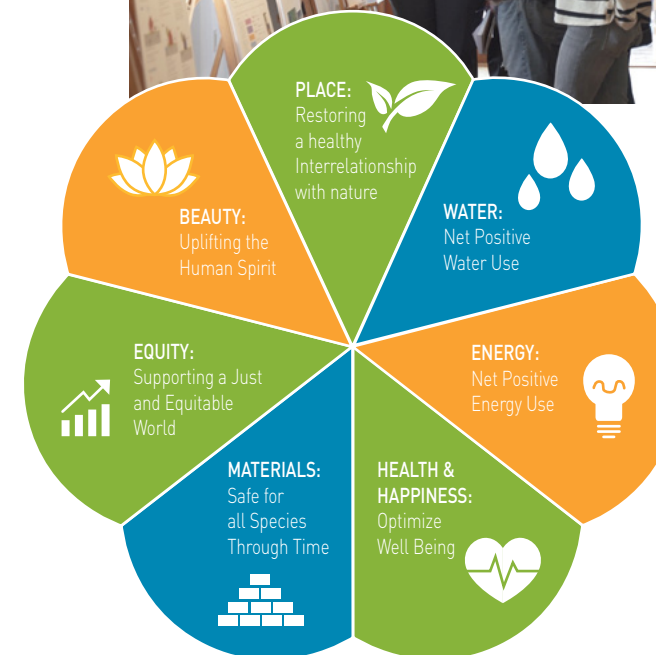
This is a legacy project that will touch the lives of all residents of the Biosphere and share the inspiration of the West Coast and its global significance with hundreds of thousands of visitors in the years ahead.

*Learn more about the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre here.*



With MOTIV Architects, the CBT hosted design workshops and open houses for community members and project partners.

We are honoured to have received over 55 letters of support from partners, education institutions, NGO's, businesses and other organizations.



*The CBT has committed to achieving the Living Building Challenge (LBC). The LBC invites a design that cultivates a symbiotic relationship between people, communities, and nature. A flower is used as a metaphor for LBC and is based on seven core performance areas represented by each petal.*

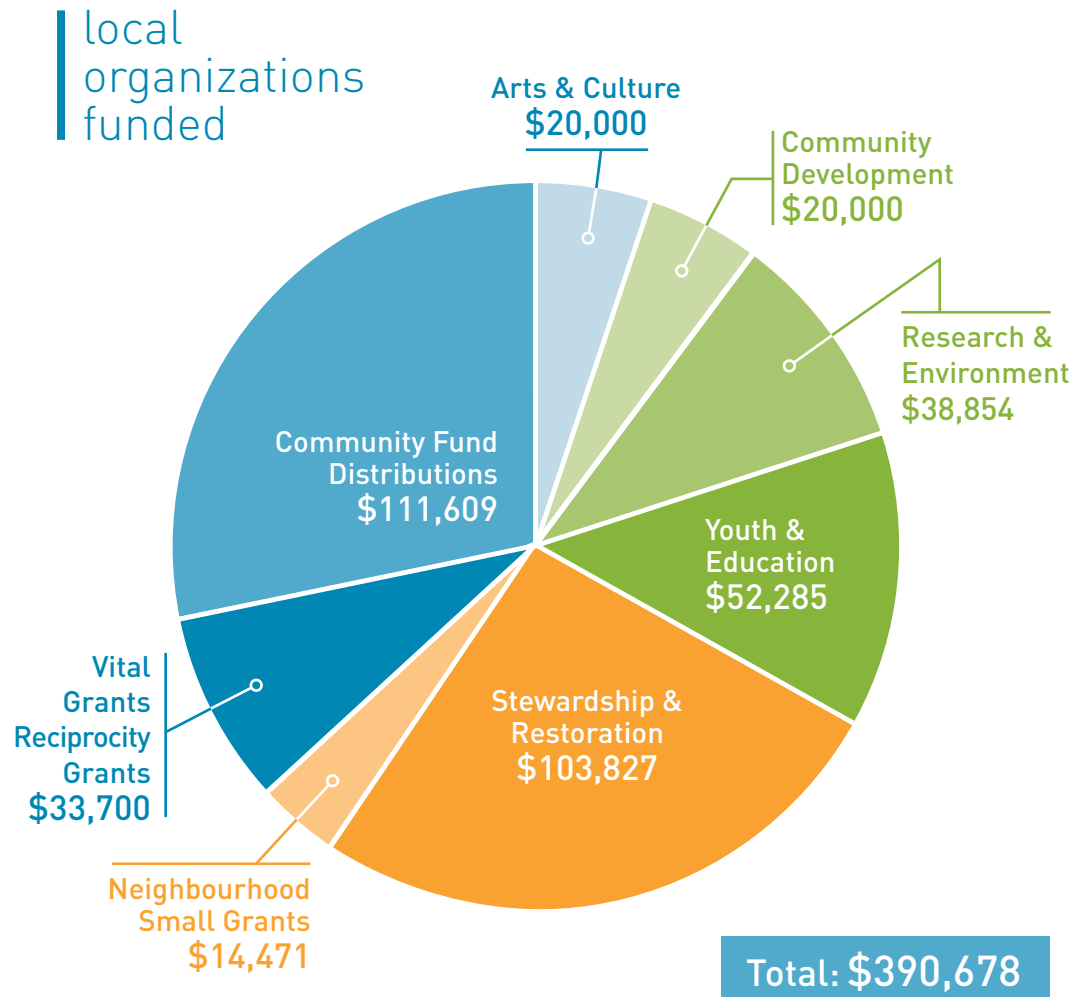
In celebration of the of the rezoning process in April, we held a small cleansing ceremony on the land with Tla-o-qui-aht cultural workers Chris and Hayden Seitcher to reflect with gratitude on the work done to date and to envision work to come.



To get involved or contribute to the Biosphere Centre, contact Michelle Hall at [michelle@clayoquotbiosphere.org](mailto:michelle@clayoquotbiosphere.org).



# 2022 Grants by the numbers





# Funded Projects

## Arts & Culture

**Toquaht Nation** - Toquaht Intermediate Carving Workshop  
**Wild Pacific Trail Society** - Ancient Cedars Voice Box  
**Carving on the Edge Festival Society** – Canoe Carving at Naa’Waya’Sum Gardens  
**Pacific Rim Arts Society** - Missoula Children’s Theatre  
**Wickaninnish Community School** - Afterschool Central Dialect classes  
**Seal Folk Productions** - Qwayaciik  
**Coastal Queer Alliance** - Coastal Queers Concert

## Community Development

**Yuuluʔilʔath Government**  
- UFN Trail Crew: Collaborative Sustainable Trail Building Training  
**Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society**  
- Revisiting our Haahoulthee (Ahousaht Territory)  
**Westcoast Community Resources Society** - Wellness Markets  
**Westcoast Community Resources Society** - Sexual Assault Response Program  
**District of Ucluelet** - Youth Cooking Classes

## Research & Environment

**Ucluelet Aquarium Society** - Ucluelet Harbour Eelgrass Survey  
**Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds**  
- Waaʔit habitat stewardship on tukʷaaʔath lands  
**Redd Fish Restoration Society** - Barkley Sound Kelp Monitoring  
**Redd Fish Restoration Society** – Invasive Yellow Flag Iris Volunteer Project  
**Pacific Peoples Partnership** - ʔihukcáa RedTide International Indigenous Climate Change Gathering

## Youth & Education

**Ahousaht fisheries** - Food security teaching traditional hunting and gathering  
**Carving on the Edge Festival Society** - Through Our Eyes Tla-o-qui-aht Territory Youth  
**District of Tofino** - Tofino Youth Night  
**Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations Education Department** – Mutaa Surf Summer Camp & Surf Shed Build  
**Ucluelet Secondary School** - Exploring the Role of Story and Land in First People’s Perspectives  
**Ucluelet Secondary School** - USS Surfrider Youth Club Waste Reduction Campaign  
**Ucluelet First Nation** - Bamfield Marine Sciences Center Field Trip  
**Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations** - Traditional Seafood Harvest  
**Warrior Program Fund** - Clayoquot Lake Site Restoration  
**Ucluelet Secondary School** - CBT Youth Advisory Committee pilot project

## Biosphere Research Award

**Raincoast Education Society** - Residency and Habitat Use of Migrating Shorebirds in Tofino

## Vital Grants and Reciprocity Funding

**Pacific Rim Hospice Society** - Child and youth grief counselling and education  
**Cedar Coast Field Station Society** - Assessing Juvenile Chinook Salmon Survival  
**Surfrider Foundation Pacific Rim Chapter** - Love Your Beach Clean  
**Yuuluʔilʔath Government** - Land-Based Values Short Film  
**Yuuluʔilʔath Government** - Traditional seafood harvest safety and logistics  
**Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations** - Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks/Allies Marketing  
**Toquaht Nation** - Toquaht Intermediate Carving Workshop  
**Westcoast Community Resources Society** – Healthy gatherings for men and families

## Stats





# Regional Programs

## Coastal Family Resource Coalition

The Coastal Family Resource Coalition (CFRC) is a network of west coast health service providers that develops capacity to improve overall health in our communities. Administered by CBT, the CFRC facilitates collaboration to achieve social and cultural sustainable development.



Throughout the year the coalition met monthly and supported several community health projects such as:

- sexual assault response training led by Westcoast Community Resources Society,
- Whistle! Safe rides for patients leaving Tofino General Hospital,
- online and print services directory, and
- the Moe the Mouse language program.

## Coming Together Forum

In 2022, the CFRC hosted the tenth biennial Coming Together Forum in Tofino. This regional health forum brought together community members, service providers, leaders, and decision-makers to identify and address the most pressing health needs. Over 90 people attended the forum including several youth who facilitated a panel discussion.



## The NEST (Nature. Education. Sustainability. Transformation.)

is a regional education tourism collaboration led by the CBT along with communities, organizations, and businesses. NEST connects visiting learners with local knowledge holders for place-based learning, while also expanding education and training opportunities for residents.

Highlights from 2022 include:

- the return in-person programming and visiting school groups to the region,
- the creation of coastal science and conservation learning opportunities for local youth in partnership with local experts and Royal Roads University through a NSERC PromoScience grant, including:
  - growing a collection of place-based StoryMaps sharing regional stories,
  - bringing Tla-o-qui-aht place names and content into StoryMaps, and
  - developing StoryMaps curriculum in partnership with the local school district.
- raising awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals through conferences and events, and
- hosting our 5th annual Fibre Art Retreat (knitting and weaving of textiles ranging from wool to cedar bark) at Black Rock Resort, with eight of our 30 participants returning from previous years.



# Thank you for Giving

Our 2022 donors join a group of committed funders who invest in our region through their donations, grants to our program, or in-kind contributions. We thank each of our donors for placing your trust in us to steward these funds and maximize their impact.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District	Community Society	Kamil Bialous	Rob T. Frawley
Alex Grame	Cyr Consulting Group Ltd	Karen Debi	Ron Morrison
Alex J Davidson	Dan Law	Keith Tucker	RUX
Alex Kee	Daniel J. Stewart	Kirsten Johnsen	Salish Seaside RV Haven
Alexandra and Simon Lamond	Darren Demone	Kyle Sawyer	Sarah McLachlan
Allan Chase	David Delaney	Lance W. Desilets	Sarah Stoski
Allan Cloke	David Floody	Laura McDonald	Scott Robinson
Andrea and Glenn Dixon	David Stoski	Lincoln Foerster	Sean Hart
Andrew Purdey	Dean Lubarsky	London Community Foundation	Shane Johnson
Andrew White	Deborah Ann Acheson	Marina Reny	Shannon Chase
Angela Hill	Decoda Literacy Solutions Society	Mark Dainton	Shayne McNary
Anne Martin	Derek Brillinger	Matt P. Dawson	Shelter Restaurant
Anonymous	Eat West Coast	Megan Aileen Fraser	Steve Rae
Arlene McGinnis	Elizabeth Liu	Melanie Anne Mckay	Ted R. Marek
Bill & Risa Levine	Elyse Goatcher-Bergmann	Michelle Hall	The Factory & LF Jewellery
Billy McGinnis	Gas N Go	Mike Davis	Tofino Brewing Co.
Bob Hansen	General Glass Industries Ltd.	Mike Hudson	Tofino Community Fund
Bottom Dwellers Freediving Ltd.	DBA Glass World	Mike White	Tofino Consumers Co-operative Association
Brendan Morrison	Genus Capital Management	Nature United	Tofino Resort + Marina Inc.
Brett Boulton	George Fritz	Nelly Heyduck	Tofino Saltwater Classic Fishing Society
Brian Coutts	Government of Canada	Nikki Riddy	Tofino Sea Kayaking/ Harbourview Coffeehouse
Bruce Baugh	Green Buoy Consulting	Nina Colovic	Tom Westley
Carmen Sloman	Gregor Robertson	Noelle Virtue	Tree house Gift Company Ltd.
Cedarwood Cove	Guy Johnson	Ocean Outfitters	Twisted Pine Trust
Charitable Impact Foundation (Canada)	Jamie Weatherall	Tofino	Ucluelet Brewing Company
Chris Clements	Jane Robinson	Patricia Sieber	Ucluelet Consumers Co-operative Association
Chris Grice	Jeff Berry	Province of British Columbia	Vancouver Foundation
Christopher Menezes	Jeff Hale	Randy McNary	Victoria Foundation
Christopher Samson	Jennifer Steven	Rebecca Hurwitz	Wickaninnish Inn Ltd.
Coast Mountain Construction Ltd.	Joey Clifford Halka	Reid Lester Mitchell	Zoe Jordan
Community Foundations of Canada	John F. Coombs	Rob Vissers	
Cowichan Green	John S. Nikiforuk	Remembering Otto & Marie Pick Charitable Foundation	
	John-Paul Harrison		
	Josh Marek		

A founding contribution from the Government of Canada has supported the CBT programs and grants since our beginning in 2000. We are grateful for their investment in our region through the gift of the Canada Fund, a \$12-million endowment.

## Endowment Funds at Work

CBT has 12 endowment funds that supported regional positive change in 2022.

A few examples include:

Warrior Program Fund provided equipment and logistics for:

- free-diving and marine harvesting
- archery
- small vessel operator training

Saltwater Classic Fund provided:

- grants totaling over \$85,000 to 19 local organizations



Local kids participating in the Tofino Saltwater Classic ball hockey game. The fishing tournament provides funds for many community organizations including Wickaninnish Elementary School.



# Ways to give

A donation to the CBT makes meaningful and lasting impacts in areas that are important to you. From arts and culture to research, from education to the environment, donors and funders come to us to simplify and enhance their charitable giving in the region.

The CBT's 12 community funds include:

- Biosphere Centre Fund
- Biosphere Research Fund
- CBT Operating Endowment Fund
- Clayoquot Sound Wild Salmon Fund
- Debbie Mundy Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Nuu-chah-nulth Language Fund
- Pacific Rim Foundation Fund
- Saltwater Classic Fund
- Tofino Children's Swimming and Water Safety Fund
- Tofino Community Fund
- Warrior Program Fund
- West Coast N.E.S.T. Fund

Today  
for tomorrow

CBT's fully audited financial statements are available on our website.  
Registered Charity Registration #870641727RR0001.



## Fossil Fuel Free Investing

The pooled funds of the CBT are invested in partnership with Genus Capital Management, a pioneer in Canada's divest-invest movement. Genus ensures our funds are not invested in the fossil fuel industry or other socially and environmentally harmful industries, aligning our investments with our long-standing commitment to living sustainably. Genus includes an SDG lens in their investment criteria, working to ensure the investments that drive the local impact of our foundation also advance SDGs in the wider world.

If you have questions about leaving a lasting legacy,

whether through contributing to a fund or starting your own, our executive director, Rebecca Hurwitz, would be pleased to meet with you. As a donor, you can work with the CBT to identify your philanthropic goals, matching your interests with community data and needs.

*Learn more about giving.*





The CBT is the only organization in Canada that is both a community foundation and a UNESCO biosphere.

Both of these networks have embraced the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide efforts and monitor progress.



The SDGs provide a useful framework that allow us to draw connections between the health of ecosystems and communities in the CSUBR. At the CBT, we have known since our inception that thriving communities and thriving ecosystems go hand in hand, guided by the Nuu-chah-nulth philosophy of *hišukniš čawaak* (everything is one and interconnected).



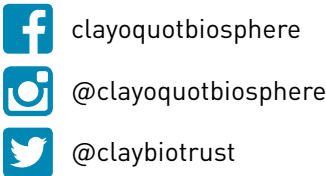
The CBT is an active member of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association as one of 19 UNESCO biosphere reserves in Canada.



The CBT is one of Canada’s 191 community foundations.



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Creating a better future through biosphere stewardship, philanthropy, and community building.

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