



Annual Report

2023

Who we Are

Cecil Community Centre is a not-for-profit, multi-service neighbourhood centre that offers a broad range of recreational, educational, social, cultural and capacity-building programs to local area residents. For more than 40 years, the Centre has played a vital role in the lives of community members of all ages. Our centre provides programs and services for children, youth, adults and seniors. Programs include EarlyON Child and Family Centre, Community Drop-in, Children's After School Program, Summer Camp and PA Day Camps, Breaking Barriers, Harm Reduction Services. The Centre is an accessible, multi-functional facility that provides program and activity spaces to the community at large.

Cecil Community Centre is an agency of the City of Toronto and one of the Association of Community Centres (AoCC). The AoCCs is comprised of 10 volunteer board-run, multi-purpose facilities providing a broad range of community, recreation and social service programs to residents in the local community.

Values

- **Equity, Diversity and Human Rights** – We are committed to ensuring that the programs, services and policies of Cecil Community Centre are responsive to the needs of our diverse community.
- **Integrity** – We are committed to operating this Centre with integrity and transparency in all our partnerships, relationships and operations.
- **Accountability** – We are committed to full accountability to the community and our partners in our financial, operational, and governing responsibilities for this Centre.
- **Sustainability** – We are committed to ensuring fiscal and social sustainability of this Centre.
- **Creativity** – We are committed to the encouragement of creative expressions of community, culture, arts, leisure, and sporting programs within this Centre.
- **Service** – we are committed to serving the community in all the operations, programs and events that take place within this Centre.

58 Cecil Street, Toronto, ON M5T 1N6
(416) 392-1090 | cecilcentre.ca
f i @cecilcentre

Vision

All residents living in the Spadina and College (Chinatown) neighbourhood enjoy a high quality of life, are able to achieve their economic, social and educational goals, and are part of a strong, prosperous and caring local community.

Mission

To foster a sense of community and enhance the quality of life through the development, encouragement and support of programs and activities responsive to local needs.

This mission fulfils past City of Toronto Council priorities concerning improved public services, strengthening at-risk neighbourhoods, and increasing public involvement in civic affairs.



Message From Our Leadership



As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the future, I am filled with a deep sense of privilege to have had the opportunity to serve alongside such dedicated individuals and to support the executive team in their tireless efforts to advance our mission.

In 2023, under the visionary leadership of our executive team, Cecil Community Centre continued to be a beacon of hope and a hub of activity in the heart of Chinatown-Spadina. Together, we have worked tirelessly to uphold our commitment to fostering a strong sense of community, promoting inclusivity, and providing essential services and programs that meet the diverse needs of our residents.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed the profound impact of our programs and services on the lives of those we serve. From our children and youth programs that offer a safe and

nurturing environment for learning and growth, to our support services for seniors that promote active aging and well-being, Cecil Community Centre remains steadfast in its dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all members of our community.

As President and Chair of the Board of Management, I am humbled by the opportunity to collaborate with our exceptional executive team and board members, whose unwavering commitment and dedication have been instrumental in driving our organization forward. Together, we have embraced the challenges of the past year with resilience and determination, navigating through uncertain times with grace and unity.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the possibilities that lie before us. With the continued backing and engagement of our community members, volunteers, and partners, I am confident that Cecil Community Centre will continue to thrive as a vibrant and inclusive hub where individuals and families can come together to connect, learn, and grow.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication to Cecil Community Centre. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as your President and Chair of the Board of Management, and I look forward to the journey ahead as we continue to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

Ryan Patrick Northfield

President & Chair, Board of Management



When we adopted the tagline, “Something for Everyone” back in 2019, we had no idea what we were wishing upon ourselves! Over the following 5 years (during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond), we have seen a tremendous increase in the diversity of the community, and a substantial increase in the need for our services.

This increasing need was no different in 2023, and we adapted our programs, services, and activities to accommodate the growing challenges faced by this diverse community. Throughout the past year, it has become evident that the need for responsive programming has outgrown the available space at 58 Cecil Street. This is why one of the four goals from our new Strategic Plan 2024-2026, is to expand and optimize Cecil Centre’s physical space.

Cecil Centre has always been responsive and adaptive to the changing needs of the Kensington-Chinatown community, and beyond, and this is possible due to the dedicated Board and staff team that we have. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our Cecil People for their ongoing commitment and service which allows us to continue to be, “Something for Everyone!”

Daniel (Danny) Anckle
Executive Director

Land Acknowledgement

Cecil Community Centre acknowledges that the sacred land on which this building stands has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land 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 Nation, 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 multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa Bands.

Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations. The original nations continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn and work toward justice and reconciliation.

Cecil Community Centre acknowledges all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants, either in this generation, or in generations past – and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.

What is a land acknowledgement and why do we do it?

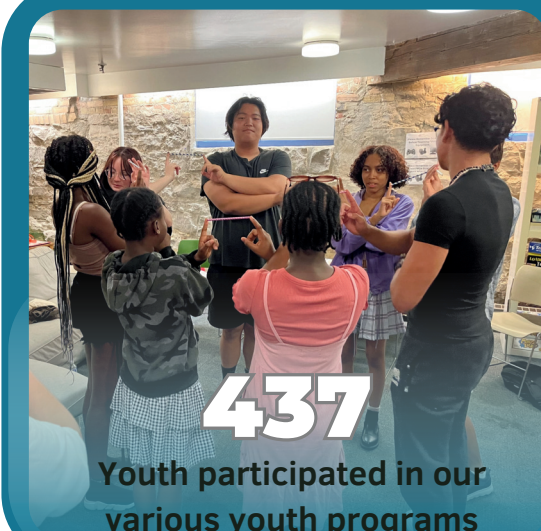
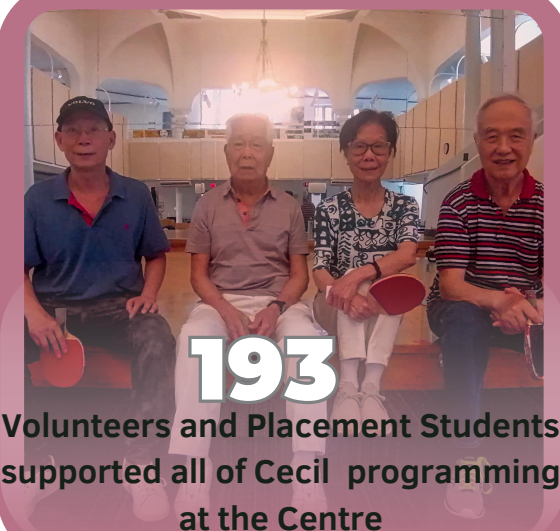
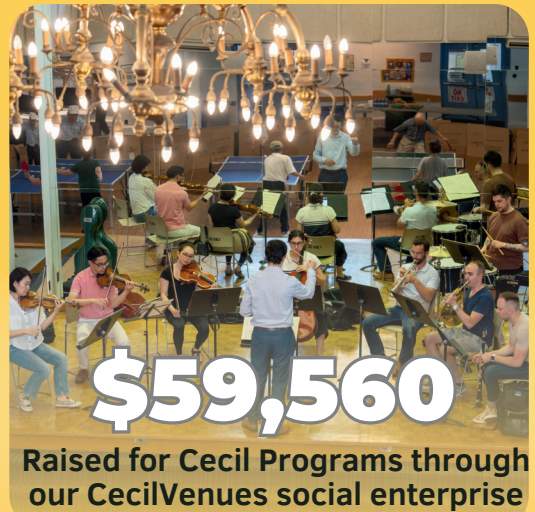
A territorial or land acknowledgement involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people(s) who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home. Indigenous peoples have been acknowledging the land at the start of gatherings, ceremonies and events for time immemorial. With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, more non-Indigenous people are becoming aware of the importance.

Providing a land acknowledgement at the beginning of an event or meeting gives time for reflection and demonstrates recognition of Indigenous lands, treaties and peoples. It involves thinking about what happened in the past and what changes can be made going forward in order to further the reconciliation process. Land acknowledgements mark a small and important step in the process of reconciliation and building a positive relationship with Indigenous peoples. By making a land acknowledgement we are taking part in an act of reconciliation, honouring the land and Indigenous presence which dates back over 10,000 years.

Using and participating in a land acknowledgement is a way to recognize the enduring presence and resilience of Indigenous peoples in this area for time immemorial. It is also a reminder that we are all accountable to these relationships.

At Cecil Centre, we acknowledge that Truth and Reconciliation will take time and significant effort. We also know that community space can be difficult and expensive to access. Throughout 2023, we continued to make our spaces available to indigenous organizations - free of charge, with no public acknowledgement - as a small step to offering support, as we thoughtfully seek to move forward on a path to reconciliation.

Cecil Impact in 2023



Family Resource Program

As they say, it takes a village to raise a child. Since the pandemic, many community members have found a village within Cecil Community Centre's Family Resource Program. Throughout 2023, we provided additional support and knowledge to mothers, caregivers, extended families, single parents, and more. We used different strategies to help some children develop their social and emotional skills. Innovative communication methods enabled us to develop and deliver educational workshops and support programs for participants and enable parents/caregivers to give their children the best possible start to life. This includes a partnership with Public Health to deliver a series of workshops on stress management techniques.



EarlyON
Child and Family Centre

1470
participated in 2023
EarlyON

243
joined online circle-time
drop-ins

20
Facilitated
Parent/Caregiver
workshops

45
attended workshops

“I have been bringing my son to the EarlyON Cecil program for over a year. It has been such a pleasure coming here and all the staff have been wonderful...This program was very helpful during the pandemic and before my son started daycare. The circle-time is wonderful. The toy selection and activities are great too. Thank you for everything you do!” **Parisa, Darian’s mom.**





The CecilKids! children's program consists of several different programs that run throughout the year, supporting the need for quality afterschool programming & Day camps (PA Day, Winter Break, March Break and Summer Day Camp). These are all geared towards school-aged children (5-12 years old) with hopes of fulfilling our goal of supporting their social, emotional & academic development.

All CecilKids! programs are S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) based with an academic enrichment focus, encouraging creativity and physical activity while providing the opportunity to see the fun side of learning, make new friends, develop new skills and get homework when needed as well providing a healthy & nutritious snack daily.

22
avg children afterschool
program/per month

33%
increase in Afterschool
Participants

42
CecilKids! Summer
Campers

“Thank you Samira! For this and all your help getting (child name) registered last year. It was her first summer in Canada and you and the camp made it such a happy, memorable one. Thanks for all the good work you do!” – anonymous

Summer Camp

We were able to reach over 20 new families in new registrations throughout the summer as we saw the number of attendants per week grow on a daily basis. By the 8th week of camp we reached our highest number of attendance in a single week for 2024, a grand total of 25 registrants! Several new thrilling trips were taken including but not limited to the the Ontario science Centre, Porter Airlines, the Olympic pool, Centre Island & local Cinema visits played a great hand in our memorable summer. The campers also had the opportunity to exercise their entrepreneurial skills with a Lemonade Stand which raised approximately over \$100 which the hardworking campers were later able to reward their hard-work with an ICE-CREAM PARTY!





“ My comfort level when I first came to Cecil was 6/10, my comfort level has gone up to an 8/10.
 -Youth participant



The Youth Program offers a space for 13-19-year-olds to relax, work on homework, receive advice, play video games, learn about volunteer and job opportunities, participate in sports, ping pong, be mentored, and receive food, among other activities tailored to their interests.

This year, CecilYouth! was able to host 10 programs and events that attracted a number of new youths to the community centre. We were able to establish new youth events and programs, as well as a Girls Committee including over 20 youths, thanks to the formation of youth committee! They organized fresh projects, activities, and programs at Cecil, bringing in between 150 – 200 youths for the various events.

437
Youth Participants

8
Youth Programs

172
Volunteer Youth hours

13
Special Youth Events

We were successful in drawing in between 80 and 100 individuals to our summer and fall community fairs to learn about community initiatives, volunteer opportunities, and other topics. Youth were able to connect with partners (YES, TPL, Neighbourhood Group, Woodgreen, UFT, City of Toronto) and find a variety of jobs and volunteer possibilities.

The Wednesday drop-in basketball program engaged over 30 youths each week to build friendships and stay active in a safe sapce. In CecilYouth! new cooking class, 10 youths acquired skills in food safety, cooking, and affordable meal preparation. Twenty percent of the students who completed Cecil's Leadership-in-Training (LIT) program graduated as mentors after receiving professional development seminars that helped them acquire employable skills.

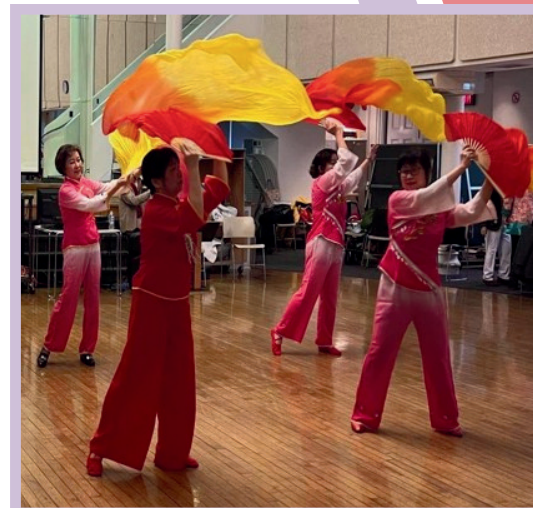


Cecil Seniors

These are volunteer-run programs for seniors providing a variety of dances, singing and Tai Chi in a friendly, social environment. Approximately 160 seniors actively participate in a variety of programs at the Cecil Center, including Chinese Folk Dancing, Line Dancing, Friday and Sunday Tai Chi, Karaoke, Choir Groups, and Table Tennis. These activities foster community awareness and vitality. Furthermore, seniors engage in enrichment activities such as Summer Barbeque Parties, holiday celebrations, and wellness workshops.

The senior programs greatly contribute to the overall health and well-being of older adults, empowering them to actively participate in recreational activities. Through fostering community involvement and volunteerism, Cecil has expanded his influence within the Kensington Chinatown community, promoting social cohesion and enriching the lives of seniors.

This is the second home for some elderly people who are loyal service users here all year round. Senior volunteers, such as Elsa, Amy, Peggy, Wanda, Judy, Loreta, Melanie, and Mr. Guan who almost never miss volunteer work except for holidays and illness. We all have feelings for the Center.



160
Senior Participants

4,641
Senior program
visits

12
Senior Programs

English Conversation Circle

The conversation circle was designed from the ground-up in September, with placement students Hali, Polly, and Cynthia creating the content, facilitating the classes, and building rapport with the participants. As the weeks went on, the placement students better understood the language skills and needs of participants and designed the curriculum accordingly. By the end of 2023, English Conversation Circles were consistently attended by a group of 3-4 dedicated participants.

English Conversation Circle invited participants to practice their English speaking and comprehension skills by engaging in a structured discussion about various weekly themes. The themes were developed with the input of participants and included practical and relevant topics including visiting the doctor's office, booking a hotel, travelling, and making healthy choices. The intimate class size (~7-15 people) allowed participants to share parts of their life, particularly during the 'check in' at the beginning of every session, while developing their English skills in a welcoming and non-judgmental environment.



BREAKING BARRIERS

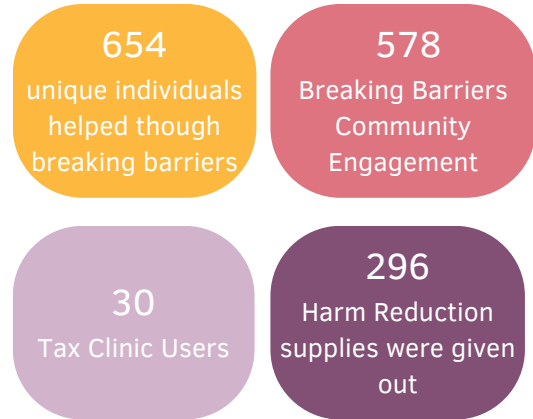
With the support of the United Way of Greater Toronto, the Breaking Barrier initiative had the following outputs for unhoused and precariously housed community members: 6 people housed, 21 housing ready, 15 clients were able to obtain Government benefits, ID and other documents, 16 newcomers were able to secure employment and housing, 5 evictions were avoided and 11 clients received peer counselling.



Harm Reduction

Towards the end of the summer, Cecil Centre initiated a Harm Reduction Program with the financial support of United Way Greater Toronto for. The program focuses on supporting community members who are substance users or are living in areas where substance use is prominent. The goal is to reduce the dangers for people who are drug users, create safe environments for people to use in their community, provide support where we can, and reduce stigma around substance use.

We have integrated quarterly community dinners, and a Holiday Celebration into our regular schedule of activities, and we are actively distributing Harm, Hygiene, and Cold Weather Kits to community members who need them.



It's always nice that I have a wonderful person that I can talk to about whatever is going on in my life. Also, Having access brand new socks and underwear has been a huge bonus, along with other miscellaneous personal care items. Above all, the thing I appreciate the most is Nathalie and without her the Breaking Barriers program would not be the same!"



Meal Program

YSM Evergreen Centre for Youth has been experiencing increased demand from adults for their lunch meal program on a daily basis. As a result, In September we began working with the Yonge Street Mission to distribute hot lunches, and dinners during the week. This new project was supported by Community Development (staff and students), and community volunteers.

Warming Centre

Since Monday, January 30th, 2023 we worked with our partners at Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre and the City of Toronto, Shelter Support & Housing Administration, to activate six warming centres (covering 23 days), 35 beds, providing a safe, warm space, with meals and referrals to almost 690 homeless neighbours.

Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiatives and Resource Development had an exciting year.

We started the New Year with a resolution to address the social determinants of health. As Cecil is committed to housing as a social determinant of health we worked with our local City Councillor, Dianne Saxe, the City of Toronto's Shelter Support, Housing Division to and Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre to be the site for Toronto's 4th Warming Centre from January to April, 2023.

Working with Toronto Public Health, and the University Health Network throughout the winter, and spring, we also hosted Covid-19 Testing, Treatment and Vaccination clinics (for Covid, Flu, and Mpox) focusing on newcomer, refugee, senior, unhoused, and other vulnerable communities. We also hosted an Open Doors Health Fair, with Access Alliance Multicultural Health, and the Mid Toronto, Ontario Health Teams.

This fair provided blood pressure checks, information on cancer screening, chronic disease prevention, mental health and wellness promotion, and sun safety along with a pop-up Family Clinic so that children, teens, and young adults could keep up with their Tetanus, Polio, MMR, and Diphtheria vaccines.

Strategic Initiatives, and Resource Development were also very busy on the arts, and culture front. On April 30th Cecil was the site for an International Conference, on Co-Design, and Community Animation. Speakers on "ground up" place making from our Auditorium to community centres were "zoomed" around the world. (Pretty cool eh?), and our work with Toronto Metropolitan University is now considered a success story in collaborative urban planning.

Throughout the summer we worked with our partners at the Bike Brigade, Fort York Food Bank, the Mazon Foundation, Scadding Court, and Toronto Climate Action transfer, and mobilize knowledge and action on container gardening. Together we transported hundreds, and hundreds of seedings, many pounds, of soil, dozens of containers of compost to the Fort York, and other Foodbanks across the Downtown West all using "peddle power", and bike trailers.

In October we celebrated the very large zucchini harvest from the Cecil Garden with a Mid-Autumn Festival Mooncake, and Art Making Day. This intergenerational event connected Cecil with more than 150 new community members of all ages, and stages.



RAISING FUNDS IS ESSENTIAL

Despite receiving core financing from the City, all program, service, and strategic initiative funds must be %100 raised independently.

We continued to crowdfund in 2023 year successfully raising:

\$3,500

to our Send-A-Kid-To-Camp

\$500

to our Winter Warmth funds

Thanks to our donors, funders, participants, and partners for making 2023 a truly great year for Strategic Initiatives.

CecilVenues

Your Memorable Event Experience



2023 was an amazing year at CecilVenues. We grossed almost \$100K and netted \$59,560 after paying our Event Crew and investing in capital purchases, which included a new Bar, a new AV system, and Wash Lights to decorate the space. The Metcalf Foundation is funding CecilVenues for 2024-25 providing our Social Enterprise with a \$148K Grant.

The CecilVenues Event Crew has grown over time to the size of 7 Crew members, with 4 members being a longer term which has helped transfer knowledge to our new hires. The crew has grown in skillsets through both onsite events and training programs that we have supported them through such as First Aid & CPR and SmartServe.

CecilVenues income is essential to supporting all of Cecil's Community Programs, Services, and Strategic Initiatives while contributing \$25K to Cecil Unrestricted Revenues Fund to be used for innovation in 2023.



“ The party was amazing, Please thank your staff... We loved having the event at Cecil street.
-Bar Mitzvah Host ”

“ Just wanted to say thanks for all your support at Cecil! Everything felt really smooth and easy. Looking forward to other possible events!
-VenusFest ”

5000+
Attendees

92
Event Hosted

120+
Event Crew
Shifts

\$99,698
Gross Revenue



2023 Financial Summary

REVENUE

City of Toronto: Core Grant City	1,023,806
Provincial Grants	22,868
Federal Government Grants	29,042
Other Gants	176,173
CecilVenues	90,127
Occasional Rental & User Groups	30,395
Program Fees	43,259
Charitable Donations	22,796
Interest	2,567
Other Income	8,818
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	7,364
Total	1,457,245

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Wages	940,067
Benefits	223,802
Materials and Supplies	78,401
Purchase of Services	180,233
Amortization of capital assets	9,073
Total	1,431,576
Net Revenue over Expenses	25,669

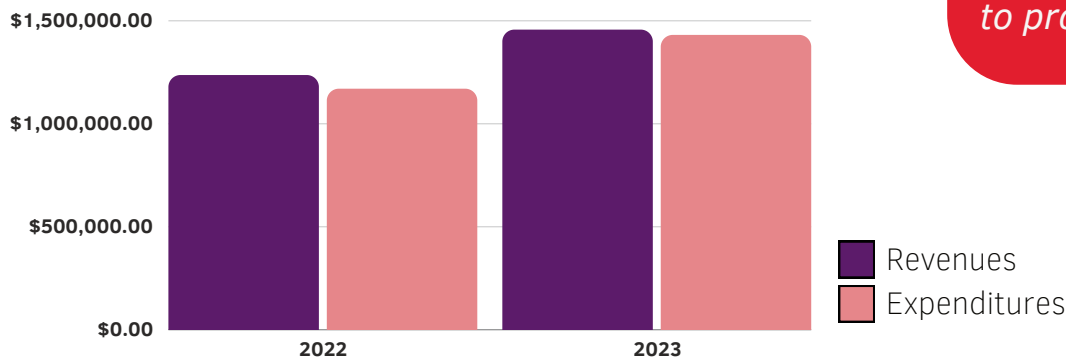
In 2023, the Centre earned a total income of **\$1,457,245**, representing an 18% increase over 2022. This represents marked increases in City of Toronto funding and, event space rentals through the CecilVenues Social Enterprise.

The total administrative expenditures increased by 15% from **\$883,258** in 2022, to **\$1,014,169**.

Total program revenues increased by 25.4% from **\$353,480** in 2022 to **\$443,076** in 2023.

In 2022, expenses increased by 45.4%, from \$287,126 to \$417,407 in 2023, resulting in a lower surplus in 2023 of **\$25,669** compared to **\$66,354** in 2022.

Expenditure and Revenue comparison



100% of all donations go directly to program costs.

To Our Funders

- Without the continued support of our funders, we would not be able to do the important work of serving our community. Together we are making a difference! Your continued support of our mission is deeply gratifying to us, and we hope it is the same for you. For this we are especially grateful.

Canada New Horizons
Canada Revenue Agency
Canada Summer Jobs
Ontario EarlyON
Ontario Ministry of Seniors, and Accessibility
Toronto Climate Action Grant
Toronto Community Services Program
Toronto Public Health Vaccine Engagement Fund

Jump Start Foundation
Mazon Foundation
Metcalf Foundation
Next Play, Canadian Women in Sport Foundation
Telus Foundation
Toronto Fresh Air Fund
United Way of the Greater Toronto Area

To Our Donors

Your gift to Cecil Community Centre has helped us do great work this year. Thank you for continuing to support our mission, and for helping us change the lives of the individuals and families we serve together. Kensington-Chinatown is a much safer, healthier, and vibrant neighbourhood because of your generosity. This donor list reflects donations received from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Amy Wang
Betsy Szilock
Brian Desrosiers-Tam
Cia Leander & Namsoo Oh
Corals Zheng
Dan Aviv
Deanne Fischer
Diana Yoon
Don Young

Ian Au
Gemma Collins
Jaicyea Smith
Jana Reid
Kate Mior
Kensington Market Lofts
Loretta Chang
Lucy Collins
Lynn Horton
Mary Secord

Michael Greenwood
Michelle Phlip
Patricia Au
Page Dixon
Peggy Poon
Richard Kang Choo
Roberta Dixon Greenwood
Serena Purdy
Shannon Bell

To Our Local Businesses

These local businesses stepped up and stepped in to support Cecil Centre in many ways. Thank you for being part of what gives our neighbourhood the flavor it has, and for giving people a reason to come visit. Thank you for providing your delicious items, professional services, and unique gift ideas.

#Hate Mior
Anh Dao
Blackbird Bakery
Boho Gelato
Coco Tea
Crumbs Patties

Fresh
Freshco Fish & Chips
Loblaws Queen & Portlant
Mother's Dumplings
Rexall Pharmacy
Rol San

Sanagans Meat Locker
Starbucks Canada
The Handle Bar
Wanda's Pie in the Sky
X-Wireless, and Computer Repair

To Our Community Partners

- In 2023 we worked with so many organizations on various projects and initiatives. We truly appreciate your partnership and we would like to share our immense gratitude with you for your support and collaboration. Your cooperative spirit is contagious! Thank you for working so hard to ensure our community's success.

Access Alliance Multicultural Health, and Community Services

Chinatown Land Trust

City of Toronto Planning

City of Toronto Downtown West Cluster

City of Toronto Downtown West Food Security Table

College Montrose Children's Place

Community Legal Education Ontario

Fort York Food Bank

Friends of Chinatown

Friends of Kensington Market

George Brown College

Hot Docs Film Festival

Humber College

Kensington Bellwoods Legal Clinic

Kensington Chinatown Local Immigration Partnership

Kensington Market Land Trust

Metro Toronto Chinese, and South East Asian Legal Clinic

Metropolitan Toronto University, Creative School

Mid Toronto Ontario Health Team

Museum Toronto

Ontario College of Art, and Design University

Loblaws

Park People

Seneca College

Sunshine Therapy Dogs

The Works

TTC Riders

Toronto Health Alliance

Toronto Lindy Hop

Toronto Public Libraries

Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership

University Health Network

University of Waterloo

Urban Minds

Venus Fest

White Ribbon Campaign

Worker's Action Centre

Thank you to the many generous individuals who to support our agency.



CecilVenues

Your Memorable Event Experience

PERFECT FOR WEDDINGS,
PARTIES, AND MEETINGS



3,800+ sq ft Auditorium
Large Licenced Hall
Large format projection screen
Audio Visuals and lighting
Chairs, tables and Custom bar
Classrooms, breakout rooms
Outdoor garden
Kitchen
Venue packages available

Net proceeds from CecilVenues, a social enterprise, support children, youth and seniors programming at Cecil Community Centre.

For more information, to book a tour, or to obtain prices, please get in touch with the CecilVenues team at emmanuelle@cecilentre.ca or 437-388-8695.