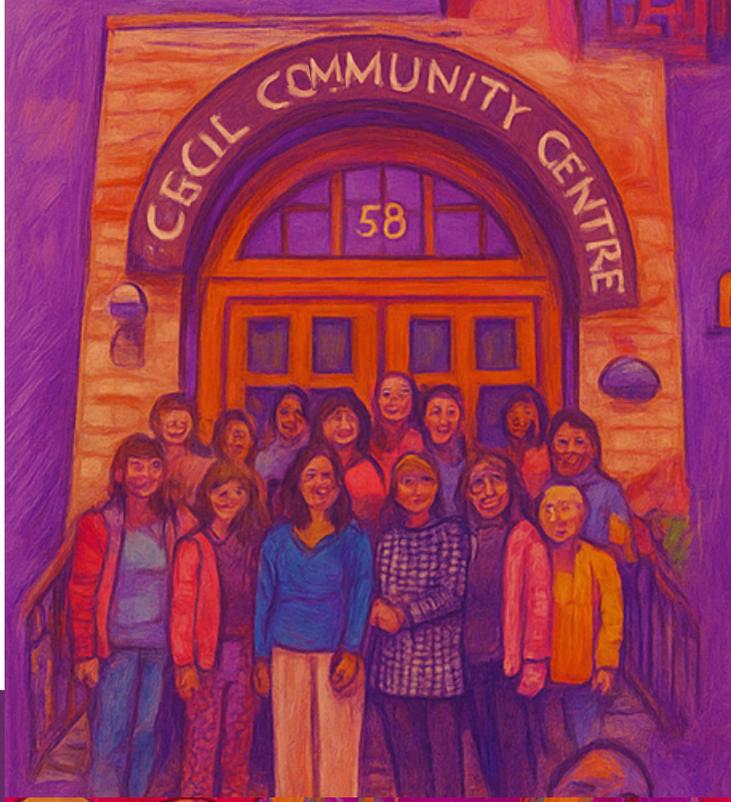




# Annual Report

## 2024

*Building community for 47 years*



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**+** ...and more!

## 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.

# 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, Housing & Community Services, Harm Reduction Services. The Centre is a 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.



## OUR 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.



## OUR 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 fulfills past City of Toronto Council priorities concerning improved public services, strengthening at-risk neighbourhoods, and increasing public involvement in civic affairs.



## OUR CORE 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.

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT & CHAIR

Reflecting on our achievements this past year, we also honour our decades-long commitment to service throughout this vibrant neighbourhood. We have dedicated 47 years to empowering individuals, strengthening connections, and fostering inclusive communities where every person feels welcomed and truly valued.

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering dedication and generosity that have powered every milestone at Cecil Community Centre. Together with our Board, staff, volunteers, placement students, and donors, we not only met our goals but surpassed them in key areas—unveiling a bold new Strategic Plan to guide us through the next three years and updating our Bylaws in alignment with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act to strengthen our governance and accountability.

One of our standout successes this year was CecilVenues, our social enterprise initiative, which generated over \$120,000 in net proceeds to reinvest directly into programs and projects that serve our community. We also launched the Senior Digital Literacy Project, delivering hands-on training to more than 40 local seniors and boosting their confidence and skills in an increasingly connected world.

In partnership with the Yonge Street Mission Evergreen Centre, we distributed over 12,500 meals—a testament to our shared commitment to food security and neighbourly care.

Beyond program delivery, more than 200 dedicated volunteers contributed over 1,500 hours of service in 2024, enabling us to host a dozen community events—from family fun days in the park to festive holiday celebrations—that brought together neighbours of all ages. Thanks to generous donors and prudent budgeting, we maintained balanced operations while investing in a new accessible entrance ramp and a renovated community kitchen, creating more inclusive, welcoming spaces. Our communications team also launched a refreshed website and social media campaign, increasing our newsletter reach by 30% and engaging new supporters across the city.

Throughout the year, our youth programming flourished as more than 120 children and teens engaged in summer camps, arts workshops, and after-school drop-ins, fostering creativity and resilience. Meanwhile, our health and wellness offerings expanded to include weekly yoga, dance, and fitness classes, supporting both physical and mental well-being. We also strengthened our volunteer placement and student program, welcoming 15 interns from local colleges who gained valuable hands-on experience while contributing over 300 hours of service.

On the policy front, representatives from Cecil Community Centre presented at two city council meetings, advocating for affordable community space and influencing important municipal decisions. Our facilities team completed critical maintenance projects, installing energy-efficient lighting, refreshing outdoor signage, and initiating roof repairs to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Our financial literacy workshops further empowered participants to make informed money decisions, while the tireless efforts of our team ensured that programs ran smoothly across every corner of the Centre. Staff ingenuity and resilience—adapting to challenges, leading with vision, and managing essential operations—have been the engine driving our collective progress and elevating our mission to new heights.

Looking forward to 2025, our top priority is to welcome a new Executive Director whose vision, integrity, and respect for both staff and the community will build on this year's momentum. We will continue collaborating with Councillor Dianne Saxe and our City of Toronto partners to secure additional space for our growing programs and services, ensuring that “Something for Everyone” remains more than a slogan—it's our promise in action.

Thank you to each and every one of you—our Board of Management, dedicated staff, committed volunteers, generous donors, and engaged neighbours. Your partnership and passion make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, we are making a real difference as we strive to provide “Something for Everyone” and innovation into the year ahead.

With sincere appreciation,



**Ryan Patrick Northfield**  
President & Chair of  
the Board of Directors



**Daniel Anckle**  
Executive Director  
(2016-2025)

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2024–2026

## Empowering Growth: Building Inclusive, Resilient Community

Cecil Community Centre's 2024–26 strategic plan, developed with Evenings & Weekends Consulting, updates its 2016–20 roadmap by focusing on rebuilding capacity after the pandemic. Based on extensive consultations with staff, board members, participants, and service users—whose feedback was shared with leadership in April 2024—the plan reflects their perspectives and priorities. Since stakeholders still view Cecil as being in a growth phase, the new strategy outlines how to achieve sustainable growth over the next three years amid rising cost-of-living pressures, high immigration levels, and an ongoing housing crisis that will likely increase demand for the Centre's community-building and support services.

### OUR GOALS



#### Expanding and Optimizing Cecil's Physical Space(s)

Cecil Community Centre's growth relies on securing additional space to support its programs and services. We plan to operate at least one new site—potentially the Cecil Street Family Centre. The new space may be leased, owned, or a combination.

To achieve this, we will:

- Reconfigure and separate program areas to safely balance diverse user needs.
- Advance expansion through new locations and/or renovations of existing facilities.
- Improve physical accessibility and air quality (e.g., humidifiers in the basement, air purifiers throughout).
- Increase unrestricted funding—via charitable registration and enhanced resource development—to sustain operations and support space growth.



#### Improving Communications and Visibility

Many stakeholders remain unaware of Cecil's programs and services. We will create a Marketing and Communications Strategy—outlining objectives, messages, benefits, barriers, resources, and evaluation—revamp our brand and website, develop marketing tools, and partner with a media outlet to increase visibility.

To meet our goal we will:

- Equip staff (and possibly hire a communications specialist) to launch the new strategy and regularly inform the community about offerings and access.
- Strengthen our public image through website updates, social media, and, if budget allows, public ads.
- Establish feedback channels (including confidential options) for staff and community members.
- Engage partners and pursue strategic collaborations to broaden our reach.

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2024–2026

Empowering Growth: Building Inclusive, Resilient Community

## OUR GOALS



### Deepening Support for High-Need Community Members

Growth among unhoused individuals and those with mental health or addiction challenges will drive an expansion of Housing and Community Supports—adding staff expertise, partnerships, and advocacy.

To meet our goal we will:

- Use a trauma-informed, strengths-based, anti-oppressive framework for decision-making.
- Apply an anti-oppressive, anti-carceral lens when enhancing security.
- Conduct needs assessments to prioritize services for housing, employment, and newcomers based on projected trends.
- Resource all programs with funding and staff—focusing on sustaining/expanding seniors’ programs and exploring an in-school aftercare option.



### Advancing Staff Culture & Experience

Employee engagement measures employees’ passion, commitment, and discretionary effort. Cecil management will build an assessment framework to guide a comprehensive employee engagement strategy.

To meet our goal, we will:

- Document and share policies/procedures to improve culture and prevent burnout.
- Boost staff training, focusing on de-escalation and conflict management.
- Develop succession plans, prioritizing program roles.
- Reinstate a volunteer coordinator to reduce staff coordination workload.
- Aim to pay a thriving wage to attract and retain skilled staff.

To learn more about our Strategic Plan 2024-2026, visit [cecilcentre.ca](http://cecilcentre.ca)

# 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Here is statistical information about Cecil Community Centre for the year ending December 31, 2024.

## WE ARE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

In 2024, the Cecil Centre welcomed over **47,260 visitors**, offering a range of community programs, services, venue space, and support.

### CECIL BY THE NUMBERS

ENGAGED IN  
EARLYON

**1714**

VISITS

EARLYON  
FACILITATED  
PARENT/CAREGIVER

**12**

WORKSHOPS

CECILKIDS!  
SUMMER CAMP

**49**

CAMPERS

MEMBERSHIP

**378**

Cecil Members

CECILKIDS!

**1103**

CHILDREN  
PARTICIPATED IN  
CECILKIDS!  
PROGRAMS/ EVENTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH  
COMPLETED

**254**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**23**

AVG CECILKIDS!  
AFTERSCHOOL  
ATTENDEES PER MONTH

CECILVENUES

**\$120,716**

Gross Revenue



CECILYOUTH!

**761**

PARTICIPATED IN  
OUR VARIOUS  
YOUTH  
PROGRAMS

**16**

YOUTH  
PROGRAMS &  
SPECIAL EVENTS

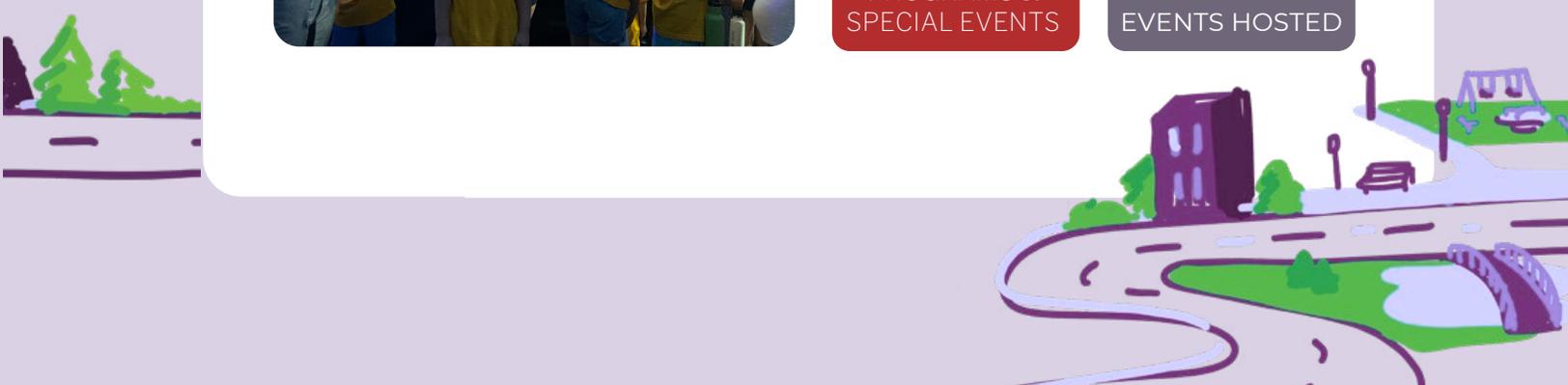
CECILVENUES  
SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE

**\$85,000**

RAISED FOR CECIL  
PROGRAMS

**102**

EVENTS HOSTED



**AND MORE!!!**

Meaningful, inclusive experiences that promote neighbourhood connections and personal interests, skills, and development.

**HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

<b>600</b> UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED	<b>32</b> CLIENTS HOUSED	<b>598</b> SUPPORT IN REFERRAL & INQUIRIES
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**SENIORS PROGRAM**  
**160**  
PARTICIPANTS

**SENIORS PROGRAM**  
**6,631**  
VISITS



**HOT MEALS**  
**12,940**  
SERVED

**HARM REDUCTION**  
**298**  
SUPPLIES WERE GIVEN OUT

**209**  
VOLUNTEERS AND PLACEMENT STUDENTS SUPPORTED ALL OF CECIL PROGRAMMING AT THE CENTRE

**TAX CLINIC**

<b>189</b> Tax Clinic Inquiries	<b>101</b> Taxes filed	<b>10</b> Volunteers
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# WHAT OUR TEAM BROUGHT TO LIFE THIS YEAR



## Cecil Open House

On September 21, 2024, Cecil Community Centre hosted its annual Open House, drawing over **300 community members** and five partners for cultural performances and program discovery. The Hong Luck Club's Lion Dance, followed by a land acknowledgement and opening remarks, set a spirited tone. Guests enjoyed the choir, line dance, folk dance, and karaoke before exploring tables where program and partner teams shared information and collected stamps toward prize draws. **Load Lifter** donated all food and beverages, fueling the afternoon's energy. Representatives from Minister Freeland's and Councillor Saxe's offices led Bingo, an art station, and raffle announcements, adding interactive fun. Daniel's closing thanks preceded a barbecue by the CecilVenues crew, capping off the festivities. Importantly, the event generated an immediate impact: numerous families registered on site for EarlyON and afterschool programs, underscoring the Open House's power to connect neighbours with vital services and strengthen community bonds.

## Building Strong Connections

Our inaugural **Friend Raiser** welcomed 100+ supporters for an evening of community-building. Attendees enjoyed a Lion Dance, DJKLOEE, hors d'oeuvres from Lebanon Garden and Greens Vegetarian, and beverages from Hinterland Wines, Reif Estates Winery, and Wilda Bee. Conversations centered on emerging neighbourhood needs and strategic partnerships, laying the groundwork for sustained philanthropy and collective impact.



## Cecil Venue Success: Enriching Summer Camp for Children

CecilVenues enabled the CecilKids! Summer Daycamp to offer a wonderful summer experience for **49 children**, despite the Centre not receiving its Canada Summer Jobs Grant.



# OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Cecil Community Centre aspires to create a culture where equity and inclusion are naturally occurring, and diversity is embraced as a source of learning and pride.



## FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAM

Supported by College-Montrose, EarlyON at Cecil Community Centre delivers free, high-quality early learning and child-development support three mornings a week in our auditorium. Parents and caregivers gain practical strategies to build children’s resilience—learning that healthy adult role modelling is critical since children imitate the behaviours they see. Through interactive workshops on child health and immunization, participants receive professional guidance that directly shapes at-home practices.

Hands-on activities—including crafts and outdoor art projects—encourage creative exploration and fine-motor development, while one-time grants have enhanced our materials and resources to deepen these supports. Outreach visits to local parks and playgrounds introduced EarlyON to new families, resulting in over **451 participants** engaging with our programs.



**EarlyON**  
Child and Family Centre

By combining resilience training, developmental workshops, and community outreach, EarlyON strengthens family well-being, fosters social connections, and lays a strong foundation for each child’s growth. As a cornerstone of our community services, the program showcases a scalable, impact-driven model—inviting funders and partners to help sustain and expand this vital resource for Toronto’s youngest learners.

## CECILKIDS!

CecilKids! continued to shine as a vibrant, inclusive hub for children aged 5–12. Through After School Programs, PA Day Camps, March Break Camp, and an eight-week Summer Day Camp, we delivered engaging, development-focused experiences—even amid funding challenges. Our STEAM-based curriculum, nutritious snacks, and skilled staff ensured every child’s growth in creativity, wellness, and community engagement.

Our **Afterschool Club** accommodated 20-25 enthusiastic participants weekly, delivering homework support, social games, comprehensive STEAM curriculum. Delivered hands-on activities—from “Elephant Toothpaste” science experiments to student-created art in our in-house gallery—sparking curiosity and critical thinking. Observed a notable increase in afterschool usage of the “Quiet Area,” providing low-stimulation time and access to the CecilKids! Library for reading and relaxation.

Our eight-week **Summer Day Camp averaged 23 campers per week**, each immersed in themes like “Under the Sea” and “A Trip Through Space” and energized by field trips to High Park, Cineplex, the Grange Park Fun Fair, and local pools. Team-bonding challenges fostered friendship and hands-on learning, while dozens of crafts created during camp now brighten the CecilKids! gallery wall—testament to each child’s creativity and pride. We maintained a strong child-development and wellness focus by providing daily nutritious snacks, conducting regular wellness check-ins, and offering quiet spaces to support emotional well-being.



### FEATURE HIGHLIGHT

**CecilKids!**  
Kids Klub

*“As a parent of a child with autism, I was incredibly grateful for the inclusive and supportive environment at Cecil Community Centre’s 2024 Summer Camp. The staff offered compassionate, individualized care that made my son feel celebrated and safe. Programs like this are essential and deserve sustained funding to continue supporting diverse families in our community.”*

- Robyn Armstrong, parent

## OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## CECILYOUTH!

CecilYouth! delivered ten signature programs and events that transformed our youth program into a bustling hub for 13–19-year-olds. Daily drop-in sessions have a consistent average attendance of ten teens. Weekly basketball sessions drew over 30 participants each week, while our **cooking class** equipped ten young people with food-safety and budget-friendly meal-prep skills. The Cecil **Mix & Vibes careers and life-skills** initiative opened registration for ages 18–30, empowering a cohort of 20 youths and young women through a 10-week co-design process. Our newly formed **Girls' Committee** of 20+ members conceived and led targeted workshops, and our Youth Focus Group engaged 20 attendees (ages 13–25) to co-create future programming—offering food, honoraria, and volunteer credit. Participation rose steadily, reflecting our diverse offerings (creative workshops, job assistance, volunteer opportunities, and tutoring) strengthened confidence and peer connections among local youth.

We hosted a **Youth Art Day & Contest** where teens showcased original artwork to redecorate the Youth Lounge, blending self-care activities with an art exhibit. This event boosted pride, ownership, and a refreshed, vibrant space for creativity.

Community engagement peaked at our June 4 Summer **Community Fair**, where ten partner agencies (YES, TPL, Neighbourhood Group, Woodgreen, UFT, City of Toronto, etc.) connected with 80–100 youth about jobs and volunteer opportunities. Across all events, each gathering attracted between 150 and 200 young people, including a planned gaming tournament, a mental health workshop, and digital literacy initiatives that underscored our commitment to well-being and resources dedicated to emotional resilience and safe online practices, equipping youth with tools to navigate today's challenges confidently.

**Help A Girl Out** donated 50 hygiene products, ensuring participants had essential supplies, and 20 percent of those completing our **Leadership-in-Training** program graduated as peer mentors after professional development seminars. Through intensified outreach, school partnerships, and monthly contests, CecilYouth! not only increased enrollment in after-school and summer camps but also fostered leadership, resilience, and community connection among local youth.



## SENIORS PROGRAM

The volunteer-led Seniors Program engaged seniors in a vibrant mix of activities—Chinese folk and line dancing, Friday and Sunday Tai Chi (including sword forms), karaoke, choir groups, table tennis, and more. Weekly fitness classes and targeted wellness workshops bolstered physical health, while summer barbecue parties, celebrations (Lunar New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, Christmas, and Mother’s Day), and a summer group excursion reinforced cultural inclusion and social connection.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Ontario Ministry for Seniors & Accessibility, we expanded our offerings and deepened our impact. This summer alone, we logged **6,597 senior visits** and saw a 20 percent increase in new participants—**over 107 unique seniors**—in enrichment activities that foster mental stimulation, volunteerism, and peer support. Regular winter wellness check-ins and phone outreach further reduce isolation by connecting neighbours to resources during the colder months.

At the heart of the program are dedicated senior volunteers—Elsa, Amy, Peggy, Wanda, Judy, Loreta, Melanie, and Mr. Guan—who faithfully lead classes and check-ins, creating a “second home” for attendees year-round. Their commitment, alongside our diverse activity menu and enriched cultural programming, has strengthened community cohesion, enhanced seniors’ well-being, and demonstrated the transformative value of intergenerational solidarity.



## ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE

The English Conversation Circle at Cecil Community Centre flourished as a vibrant weekly gathering for 20–25 newcomers, offering a co-designed curriculum driven by placement students and volunteers who tailored each session to participants’ evolving needs. By transitioning from informal theme-based discussions to structured grammar lessons and task sheets—directly responding to learner feedback—the program heightened engagement and accelerated language skill-building. This welcoming space helped newcomers combat isolation, forge friendships, and integrate more fully into the local community. Strong interest from newcomer and refugee communities enriched every conversation, while access to the adjacent Computer Hub supported job searches, housing research, and digital literacy. Participants consistently reported enhanced English proficiency, expanded social networks, and a deepened sense of belonging—testament to the Circle’s success in fostering collaboration, confidence, and community connection.

## DIGITAL LITERACY

the Seniors Digital Literacy Program—funded by the federal New Horizons grant—empowered **over 40 multilingual seniors** in Kensington-Chinatown with essential computer skills. Through weekly two-hour workshops (serving 20 participants) and one-on-one drop-in support, learners mastered everything from Windows 11 basics to navigating browsers and understanding tech terminology. Early needs assessments, surveys, and focus groups (engaging 50+ seniors) shaped tailored content and formed an advisory board to guide ongoing sessions. Launched its second cohort in July 2024, the program fostered digital confidence, stronger social connections, and a roadmap for sustainable funding and increased community visibility.



“

“Before joining the Digital Literacy Program, I didn’t know how to find information about politicians visiting my building. Now, I can visit my MP’s website, read about their platform, and even use Google Maps to find their office. Thanks to this program, I feel more informed and engaged in the community.”

**Digital Literacy Participant**

# Building Stability and Resilience

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

With vital support from the United Way of Greater Toronto, Cecil Community Centre's Housing & Community Support program delivered one-on-one case management, housing search assistance, eviction prevention, and referrals to specialized services for **600 clients** facing eviction risk, unstable dwellings, food insecurity, and more. Participants gained practical skills and advocacy tools through workshops on tenant rights, financial literacy, harm reduction, and de-escalation.

The team distributed 100 hygiene kits, helped 16 housing applications succeed, and saw numerous clients transition into stable housing. By forming six new partnerships with shelters and advocacy groups and engaging in city-level meetings, the program strengthened its service network and community resilience. Integration of the Breaking Barriers project under a dedicated coordinator expanded support for clients confronting addiction. Clients reported profound emotional relief—**“The help gave me hope.”**—even as they contended with restrictive shelter rules and stigma. Enhanced mobile outreach and flexible support hours allowed staff to meet neighbours at hospitals, transitional sites, like 129 Peter Street, and community hubs, ensuring timely, person-centered care.

Strategic partnerships with The Neighbourhood Group, KensingtonBellwoods Legal Clinic, Yonge Street Mission Dental Clinic, and Open Doors broadened our service network, while generous in-kind contributions—from winter warmth kits by **Teladoc Health Centre** and socks from **JustSocks** to hygiene packs from **Bargains Group**, perishable foods from the **United Steelworkers** and **Chinese Benevolent Society**, bedding from **Hush**, and furnishings from **Furniture Bank**—provided essential warmth, nourishment, and dignity. These collaborative efforts exceeded our service targets and demonstrated the transformative value of community solidarity in supporting our most vulnerable neighbours.

Cecil Community Centre's **Harm Reduction program provided sterile supplies and support across 277 visits for 21 unique clients.** By offering clean needles, safe disposal, informational materials, and referrals to health and social services, we work to prevent overdose and blood-borne infections. Through outreach and education, the program reduces stigma around substance use and cultivates a culture of respect and inclusion. This vital service reflects Cecil's ongoing commitment to safeguarding the health, dignity, and well-being of our most vulnerable neighbours.



## MEAL PROGRAM

Cecil deepened its partnership with the Yonge Street Mission's Evergreen Centre (YSM) to deliver over 10,900 nutritious meals—an **average of 270 per week**—to neighbours in need, including during warming centre activations and weekend outreach. This collaboration addressed hunger and nutrition for hundreds of individuals and families, significantly easing financial pressures on low-income households. Community connection was fostered through shared mealtimes. In-kind donations from United Steelworkers, Starbucks, and others increased our capacity by 1,600 meals to serve more people. By combining meal distribution with our broader food-security initiatives, we reinforced a safety net that not only feeds bodies but also builds relationships. This ensures that every neighbour has a welcoming place—and a hot meal—when they need it most.

## TAX CLINIC

With over 170 inquiries received across various platforms, the demand for tax assistance is evident. Between March 11 and May 31, 2024, Cecil Community Centre's **Income Tax Clinic filed 82 returns** (81 electronically, 1 paper), unlocking \$303,871.85 in refunds, tax credits, and benefits for low-income and newcomer clients. This included \$139,746.88 in Canada Child Benefits, \$57,675.76 in Ontario Trillium Benefits, \$40,282.99 in GST credits, \$48,724.00 in Canada Carbon Rebates, and \$17,442.22 in direct refunds—all critical infusions of cash that helped families cover rent, groceries, and other essentials. **Following tax season, we filed an additional 19 income tax returns.**

Our team provided follow-up appointments to set up CRA My Accounts, navigate complex tax portals, and provide advocacy through the CVITP helpline. Our comprehensive support provided clients with computer access, Wi-Fi, and necessary documentation, easing the burden of Canada Revenue bureaucracy. Clients reported renewed confidence and relief, vowing to return next season.



## WARMING CENTRE

Cecil Community Centre partnered with Toronto Shelter & Support Services (TSSS) to activate three warming centres (covering 16 days), providing 30 beds for TSSS to serve clients with three meals daily and referrals to shelter services. During the extreme cold, we provided a safe and warm haven to **181 of our most vulnerable neighbours**. From November 1st to April 15th, Cecil Centre remained on standby, ready to activate when temperatures dropped below -15°C.

*On behalf of the senior management team, I would like to thank you and your board for your support of our Winter Services Plan, which helped to provide additional capacity and services to individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the winter season. We know that the health and safety risks of those we serve is higher than normal during the cold winter months. By enabling us to use Cecil Community Centre to provide surge capacity during periods of extreme cold, we were able to ensure that more than 80 unique individuals could access critical overnight accommodations, meals and other support services. The work we do is important and often lifesaving. We greatly appreciate your partnership and thank you for helping us to make a difference in the lives of those most vulnerable in Toronto.*

**– Gord Tanner, General Manager,  
Toronto Shelter and Support Services**

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

# Catalyzing Community Transformation

## LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS, INNOVATING PROGRAMS, AND ENSURING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Cecil Community Centre accelerated its strategic vision by deepening partnerships, diversifying funding streams, and expanding program innovation to meet evolving community needs.

### Network & Partnership Growth

Cecil expanded its influence across multiple scales—joining the Kensington-Chinatown Local Immigration Partnership, contributing to the City’s Chinatown Planning Study, engaging in Access Alliance’s Provincial Open Door Initiative, and co-creating the national Chinatown Storytelling Project. Academic collaborations deepened with the University of Toronto’s School of Cities and the University of Waterloo’s International Urban Co-Design Project.



Nuit Blanche

### Housing & Land-Trust Support

We strengthened affordable-housing efforts by supporting the Kensington Market Land Trust and committee members for the **Chinatown Land Trust**. Cecil continues to drive land assembly for mixed-use community spaces.

### Arts & Culture Initiatives

Our Arts & Culture portfolio grew significantly: we co-hosted “Long Winter Activities” with MOCCA, contributed to the **MuseumTO** Neighbourhood Stories spring installation, and presented Matthew Kariatsumari’s Kintsugi exhibit at **Nuit Blanche**, made possible by the Japan Foundation’s sponsorship.



HUSH Blanket Donation Drop-Off

## 2024 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

### TCS Charity Challenge

On October 20, our board members, staff, and supporters took to Toronto's lakeshore for the signature 5km Waterfront Marathon—our premier board-sponsored fundraising event. In the weeks leading up to race day, participants collected pledges, trained together, and donned Cecil-branded gear to raise awareness of our mission. On the day, runners and walkers alike wove through scenic waterfront trails, cheered on by community members and volunteers manning hydration stations. Their collective dedication generated **\$5,459**—surpassing our \$5,000 goal by 9%—and energized future fundraising efforts. Beyond dollars raised, the event boosted Cecil's visibility, fostered teamwork, and underscored our commitment to health, community engagement, and sustainable support for our programs.

### Send A Kid To Camp Campaign

Our "Send A Kid To Camp" appeal has raised **\$6,765** through the City of Toronto Donation Portal and our Charity Village crowdfunding campaign. These funds have underwritten camp fees, materials, and healthy snacks for 49 CecilKids! Summer Day Camp participants, many of whom come from low- and middle-income families, were ensured the opportunity to join outdoor adventures, STEAM workshops, and arts activities. By removing financial barriers, the campaign fostered confidence, teamwork, and lasting friendships, giving every camper a memorable summer filled with creativity and community.

### Winter Warm-Up & Giving Tuesday

Running alongside the international Giving Tuesday, our winter relief drive generated **\$450 in cash donations and an additional \$300 from a generous individual donor**. Board-led outreach secured 10 winter kits—each containing a sleeping bag plus hat, gloves, and essential toiletries—through Project Winter Survival. These contributions provided warmth, nourishment, and dignity to unhoused neighbours when they needed it most.

### Revenue Development Committee: Friend Raiser

Our inaugural Friend Raiser welcomed 100+ supporters for an evening of connection, forging and community-building. Attendees enjoyed a Lion Dance, DJKLOEE, hors d'oeuvres from Lebanon Garden and Greens Vegetarian, and beverages from **Hinterland Wines, Reif Estates Winery, and Wilda Bee**. Conversations focused on emerging neighbourhood needs, volunteerism, and strategic partnerships, laying the groundwork for sustained philanthropy and collective impact.



## RAISING FUNDS IS ESSENTIAL

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

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

# CECIL VENUES: A GROWING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

2024 was an incredible year at Cecil Venues. We **grossed over \$120,000 and netted \$85,000** after paying our expanded event crew and investing in a new website and lookbook. Our crew grew by four new hires—joining seven veteran members—whose combined expertise was sharpened through onsite events and training in First Aid, CPR, and SmartServe. Cecil Venues **hosted over 100 events**, including four new long-term contracts. We hosted a rich tapestry of inclusive gatherings—from the Nowruz Persian New Year celebration and a West African wedding to vintage markets, fashion shows, all-ages dances, bi-monthly Arts & Culture Nights (each drawing 100+ attendees), Asian History Month festivities, and the sold-out Nuit Blanche 2024 Kintsugi exhibit. This revenue underwrote core community programs—CecilKids! Summer Day Camp and After-School for low/middle-income children—and contributed \$25,000 to the Unrestricted Revenues Fund to fuel innovation in 2025.



## FEATURE HIGHLIGHT

“I wanted to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and your team for hosting our event, Peace Ball, on March 23. Thanks to your hard work and dedication, the event was a great success—we couldn’t have done it without your support.”

*Angelica Duran, Peace by PEACE*



# 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 visit [cecilvenues.ca](http://cecilvenues.ca)

# STEWARDING EVERY DOLLAR FOR OUR COMMUNITY

In keeping with our commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship, below is a summary of Cecil Community Centre's financial results for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

This fiscal year challenged Cecil Community Centre's financial resilience and underscored the importance of rigorous oversight, strategic planning, and diversified revenue streams. Thanks to the steadfast commitment of our Finance team, the Board's Finance Committee, and every staff member, we maintained uninterrupted delivery of critical community services—even as rising client needs and inflationary pressures strained our budget.

Total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2024 reached **\$1,811,642**, marking a **24% increase over 2023's \$1,457,245**. This growth was fueled by a combination of core municipal funding, program grants, and self-generated income. Our core grant from the City of Toronto—**\$1,390,803**—covered all administrative costs and remained the cornerstone of our budget. Program-specific grants contributed an additional \$207,823, including \$29,319 from the Province of Ontario for EarlyON family services and \$21,166 in federal support for our Tax Clinic and Seniors Program. Other philanthropic partners, such as the Metcalf Foundation and United Way, provided \$149,544 to enrich housing advocacy, summer camps, and community projects.

Despite increased revenues, total expenses climbed 27% to \$1,817,107 (up from \$1,431,576 in 2023), reflecting higher staffing costs, expanded programming, and the ongoing impact of inflation. In our **program operations, we earned \$420,839** in revenue against \$426,304 in expenses, resulting in a modest deficit of \$5,465. This deficit highlights the growing gap between service demands and grant funding, as program costs rose 27% while grant funding from non-municipal sources fell by 14%.

To mitigate these pressures, we intensified our social enterprise and fundraising efforts, generating \$210,044 internally—\$137,690 from venue rentals, \$46,403 in program fees, and \$25,951 through donations and special events. This autonomy allows us to reinvest directly into community programs and reduces sole reliance on external grants.

Our Statement of Financial Position illustrates a stable balance sheet. As of December 31, 2024, total assets stood at \$610,500, buoyed by \$100,000 in guaranteed investment certificates and \$226,006 receivable from long-term employee benefits funding provided by the city.



Tangible capital assets—furniture, fixtures, and computers—totaled \$42,870, reflecting strategic investments in our facilities and technology to support program delivery. Liabilities amounted to \$490,881, including \$158,614 in accounts payable and \$226,006 in post-employment benefit obligations. Net assets of \$119,619 comprised a Board-designated reserve of \$40,329 and an unrestricted balance of \$79,290.

Our Statement of Cash Flows demonstrates effective liquidity management. Cash increased by \$12,492 to \$27,235 during the year, despite capital outlays of \$32,100 for asset acquisitions. Operating activities generated \$67,578 in net cash, and deferred capital contributions of \$32,101 financed tangible capital investments.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will strengthen financial accountability through enhanced reporting protocols and introduce quarterly grant-diversification targets. We will also expand Cecil Venues—our social enterprise arm—to further grow self-generated revenue and cushion service delivery against grant volatility.

Continuous collaboration with partners such as Yonge Street Mission, Hush Blankets, and United Steelworkers will remain vital, as their in-kind support—ranging from volunteer interns to essential household items—amplifies our impact.

Finally, none of these accomplishments would be possible without the dedication of our Board, staff, volunteers, and generous supporters. As we plan for the year ahead, we invite members and donors to renew their commitment to Cecil Community Centre, ensuring that every dollar stretches further in making Kensington-Chinatown safer, healthier, and more vibrant.

#### TREASURER INSIGHT

The last year has been challenging for everyone at Cecil Community Centre as we worked tirelessly to manage our finances, sustain core operations, and meet growing community needs. Though we faced modest deficits and made difficult resource-allocation decisions, we are confident in our ability to emerge stronger, always putting the health, safety, and well-being of our neighbours first without compromising our standards, service ethics, or compliance commitments. For decades, we have been a pillar of support in Kensington-Chinatown, and we will continue our efforts to build an inclusive, vibrant community where everyone belongs for years to come.



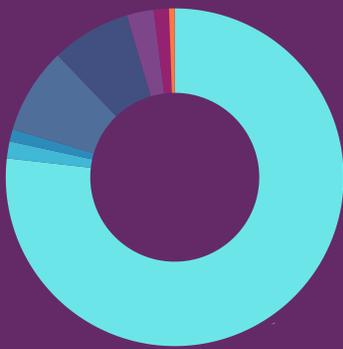
# FINANCIALS

	2024	2023
Total Assets	\$ 610,500	\$ 463,0143
Total Liabilities	\$ 490,881	\$ 37,930
Revenue	\$ 1,811,642	\$ 1,457,245
Total Expenses	\$ 1,817,107	\$ 1,431,576

REVENUE	2024	2023
City of Toronto: Core Grant City	\$ 1,391,244	\$ 1,023,806
Provincial Grants	\$ 29,319	\$ 22,868
Federal Government Grants	\$ 21,166	\$ 29,042
Other Gants	\$ 149,544	\$ 176,173
Rentals	\$ 137,690	\$ 120,552
Program Fees	\$ 46,403	\$ 43,259
Donations and Fundraising	\$ 25,951	\$ 22,796
Interest	\$ 521	\$ 2,567
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 8,818
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	\$ 9,804	\$ 7,364

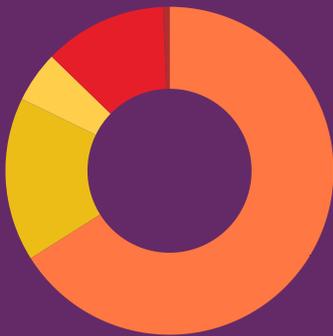
EXPENSES	2024	2023
Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,200,079	\$ 940,067
Employee Benefits	\$ 293,681	\$ 223,802
Materials and Supplies	\$ 91,746	\$ 78,401
Purchase of Services	\$ 220,087	\$ 180,233
Amortization of capital assets	\$ 11,513	\$ 9,073
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,817,107</b>	<b>\$ 1,431,576</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-\$ (5,465)	\$ 25,669

### 2024 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION



City of Toronto: Core Grant City	76.8%
Provincial Grants	1.6%
Federal Government Grants	1.2%
Other Gants	8.3%
Rentals	7.6%
Program Fees	2.6%
Donations and Fundraising	1.4%
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	0.5%

### 2024 EXPENSES DISTRIBUTION



Salaries and Wages	66%
Employee Benefits	16.2%
Materials and Supplies	5%
Purchase of Services	12.1%
Amortization of capital assets	0.6%

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHT

Approximately 9.7% of our annual organizational budget is supported by fundraised dollars. In the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, **\$175,495 was raised** through the generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations, and partner organizations—including funding from the Metcalf Foundation, United Way, Mazon, and donations through special events.

One hundred percent of all donations go directly to program costs, ensuring every gift strengthens housing support, digital literacy, youth engagement, and other vital community initiatives.

# THANK YOU!

## TO OUR FUNDERS

Bay-Bloor Rotary Club  
 City of Toronto, Community Services Program  
 College-Montrose Children’s Place  
 Government of Ontario, Ministry of Seniors, and  
 Accessibility Seniors Active Living Centres  
 Government of Canada, Canada Revenue Agency  
 Government of Canada, New Horizons Program  
 Mazon Foundation  
 Metcalf Foundation  
 Next Play  
 Telus  
 Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund  
 United Way of Greater Toronto

## TO OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

Bargains Group  
 Brockton Village Bakery  
 Electronic Recycling Association  
 Furniture Bank  
 Green’s Vegetarian  
 Just Socks  
 Hinterland Winery  
 Hodo Kwaja Walnut Cakes  
 Hush Blankets  
 Lebanese Garden  
 Leo Chan, and the Chan Family Association  
 Reif Estates Winery  
 Richard Kang-Choo Real Estate Brokerage  
 Sleep Country Canada  
 South Asian Dosa Mahal  
 Sultan of Samosas  
 Teladoc Health Centre  
 Wanda’s Pie in The Sky  
 Wild Bee Friendly Natural Spritzers  
 Yonge Street Mission, Evergreen Centre

## TO OUR MAJOR GIFTERS

Patricia Au  
 Ian Collins  
 Michael Greenwood  
 Page Dixon  
 Wendy Freeman  
 Jana Reid  
 Mary Secord

## SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

*The Friends and Families of Alexander Joseph, Vik Makker, Laura Mandelbaum, and Carson Tong who supported their Toronto Waterfront Marathon 5km Run.*



FriendRaiser Event

## TO OUR PARTNERS

- 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
- Chinatown Lion Dance Club
- College Montrose Children's Place
- Common Thread Choir
- Community Legal Education Ontario
- Fort York Food Bank
- Friends of Chinatown
- Friends of Kensington Market
- Four Winds Mah Jong Club
- George Brown College
- Hot Docs Film Festival
- Humber College
- Kensington Bellwoods Legal Clinic
- Kensington Chinatown Local Immigration Partnership
- Kensington Market Land Trust
- Loblaws
- Metro Toronto Chinese, and South East Asian Legal Clinic
- Mid Toronto Ontario Health Team
- Museum Toronto
- Ontario College of Art, and Design University
- Ontario Justice Education Network
- Open Doors
- Park People
- Progress TO
- Recovery Comes First
- Scott Mission
- Seneca College
- Social Circus
- Sunshine Therapy Dogs
- The Neighbourhood Group
- The Works
- TTC Riders
- Toronto District School Board
- Toronto Healthcare Alliance
- Toronto Public Libraries
- Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership University Health Network
- University of Waterloo School of Architecture
- University of Toronto Termety School of Medicine
- West Neighbourhood House
- Yonge Street Mission Dental Clinic

*Thank You*

We extend heartfelt thanks to our funders, donors, sponsors, and community partners. Your funding, gifts, services, and collaboration have empowered Cecil Community Centre to strengthen Kensington-Chinatown, enrich lives, and foster a vibrant, healthy neighbourhood. Our donor list covers January 1–December 31, 2024.

Thanks to our funders, we've expanded essential programs in housing support, digital literacy, and youth engagement. To our donors: your generosity provided meals, resources, and hope to hundreds of families, enhancing community safety and resilience. To our sponsors: your delicious products, professional services, and unique offerings enlivened events and brought neighbours together. To our community partners: your collaborative spirit—through joint workshops, advocacy, and shared initiatives—amplified our impact. Each of you is integral to our mission. We are deeply grateful for your commitment and look forward to continuing this impactful partnership into the future. Together, we celebrate the successes of 2024 and anticipate even greater achievements ahead.

# JOIN US!

We're dedicated to delivering exceptional programs that empower our Kensington-Chinatown community. To make such initiatives possible, we rely on talented, passionate individuals like you. That's where you come in—see our latest opportunities at [cecilcentre.ca/get-involved/](https://cecilcentre.ca/get-involved/).

## DONATE

Your gift to Cecil Community Centre will help us deliver vital programs and services for community members of all ages— from early learning and youth development to adult supports and senior wellness. Thank you for partnering with us to build a stronger, more connected community.

**Donate today:**  
[cecilcentre.ca/get-involved/](https://cecilcentre.ca/get-involved/).

## BECOME A MEMBER

Engage, connect, and empower our community by providing input through committees and consultations, voting at the Annual Meeting, receiving program updates, attending events and seminars, enjoying CecilKids! discounts, accessing legal and housing referrals, and joining free health and wellness workshops.

**Learn more at [cecilcentre.ca](https://cecilcentre.ca)**

## CONTACT US

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(416) 392-1090  
[info@cecilcentre.ca](mailto:info@cecilcentre.ca)



## CONNECT WITH US

 @cecilcentre

[cecilcentre.ca](https://cecilcentre.ca)

Prepared & Designed by Shakira Luke

