

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2022-2023

Binnners' Project

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

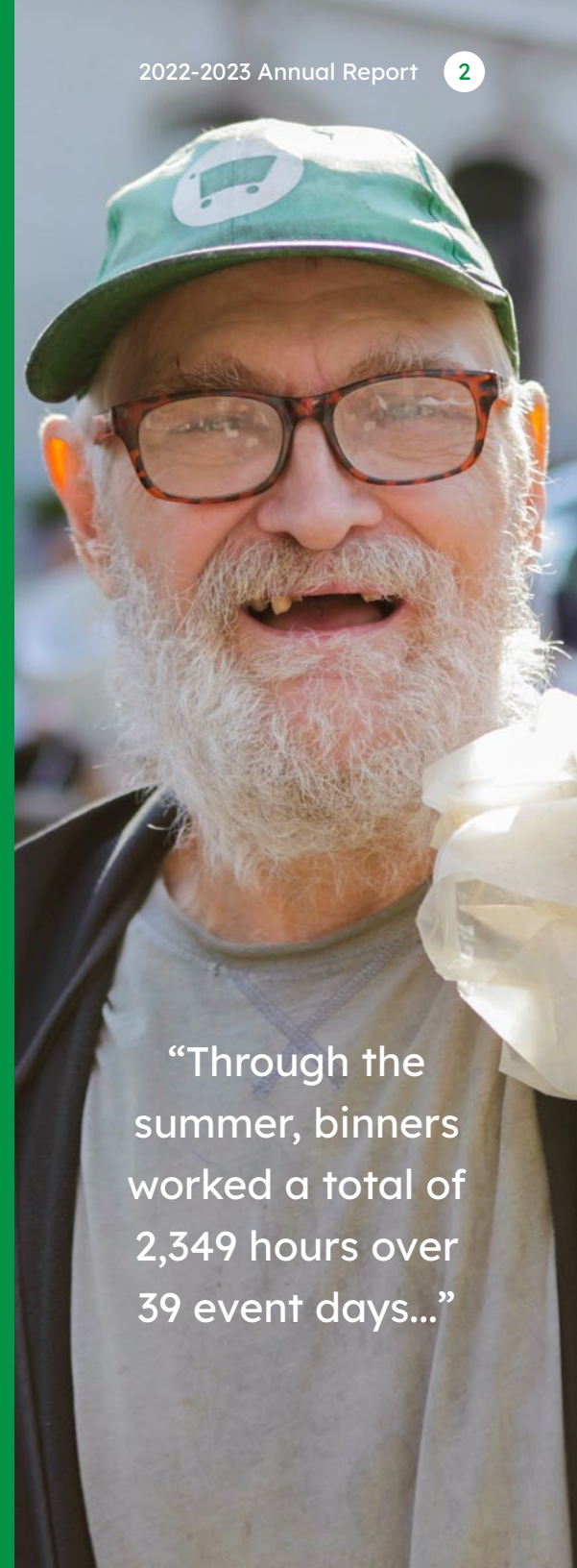
It's been an exceptionally busy year for us at Binners' Project and with that comes lots to share.

As the more acute repercussions of the pandemic began to ease, we saw the return of a number of familiar activities at the Project, including indoor Binners' Meetings. Our Social Enterprise Program saw events return in full swing this year, with a large expansion of our waste sorting work at the PNE. The Coffee Cup Revolution returned to its home at Victory Square and \$7,524 in refunds were given to binners – more money than ever before. We were also awarded the City of Vancouver contract to operate the DTES Street Market which supports low-barrier informal vending for Downtown Eastside residents, including many binners.

Binners got back to work in a big way as we were able to continue growing our back-of-house sorting sites and event work. Through the summer, binners worked a total of 2,349 hours over 39 event days, including 57 economic hours per day at the PNE. We also surpassed a massive milestone: \$1 Million earned by binners over the lifespan of the Project. This was highlighted at our Annual Fundraiser which raised over \$35K, our highest fundraising goal to date.

I couldn't be more proud of the binners and core staff team I work with every day, and I hope the impact of our work shines through in this report. I want to thank all of you for your support over the past year, and stay tuned for more exciting things to come!

Sean Miles · Director, Binners' Project



“Through the summer, binners worked a total of 2,349 hours over 39 event days...”

ABOUT BINNERS' PROJECT

Our work takes place on the shared, unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skxwú7mesh (Squamish) & səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

Binners' Project is a group of waste-pickers aided by support staff dedicated to improving their economic opportunities, and reducing the stigma they face as informal recyclable collectors. We do this through our many programs that work to increase binners' access to bottles and cans, provide reliable income opportunities through waste sorting, and by fostering relationships with binners and the wider community.

Our work services a triple bottom line: Waste diversion, social inclusion, and community economic development.

The cornerstone of our programs are the weekly Binners' Meetings, where binners receive community and Project updates, as well as their shifts for the week. These meetings also serve as a vital connection opportunity between members, many of whom have struggled from the impacts of isolation both before and during the pandemic.

We were excited to have our Binners' Meetings return indoors in May of 2022 after over two years of outdoor, alleyway gatherings. Since moving indoors, we have noticed an increase in connections within our community of binners, and over the past year we have welcomed **50 new members** to the Project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

As a key part of our mission is both to amplify the voices of binners at a policy level and destigmatize and advocate for their work, we regularly host workshops, tours, and consultations with various groups.

Binners' are the lead educators and advisors in this advocacy work by facilitating presentations and providing key insights from their living experience as binners in small group consultations.

This year, we hosted **132 community engagement opportunities** for binners including facilitating workshops with groups like the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Island University, St. George's School, and Mulgrave School.



UNIVERSAL CART INITIATIVE

Once launched, the Universal Carts will provide purpose built carts for binning that will be free for binners to use.

The carts will live on the street similar to a bike-sharing system and will be accessible through voice recognition technology.

Further delays with our fabricators resulted in us holding back the launch of our long awaited Universal Carts Initiative this year.

While the infrastructure continues to be finalized, we have been intentional with how we're developing the delivery of this program as we continue to create much of this innovative initiative from scratch. Over the last year, binners have helped us decide on things like information and sign up instructions for new members and orientation plans, and early interviews for binners to participate in our maintenance team took place. All of these steps will ensure that our program is robust and ready to go once the finishing touches on our stations and the installation of our custom voice recognition technology are complete.

COFFEE CUP REVOLUTION

Every year over 150 binners gather in Victory Square Park to return used coffee cups for a 10 cent refund.

This year, we were excited to return to Victory Square after the event was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, and relocated in 2021 due to permitting issues. In its 9th year last year, binners redeemed **75,243 cups, earning \$7,524.30.**

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAMS

It was another year of recovery for our social enterprise program as the summer of 2022 saw a major comeback in events after the pandemic closures in previous years.

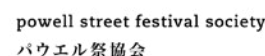
This year we returned to provide waste sorting for Khatsahlano Street Party, Car Free Days, Taiwan Fest, Powell Street Festival and The Fair at the PNE, among others, giving **633 income opportunities** to binners over **39 event days**.

Our back of house sorting program continued strongly this year with binners working an average of **54 income opportunities per week over 14 sites**.

We also continued to develop our waste audit services this year, which are now implemented across **4 sites**. For this add-on service, binners are trained in weighing and recording waste before and after they sort it, providing detailed waste analysis to our clients as well as demonstrating the impact of our services.

All in all, binners earned **\$148,204** from our social enterprise program this fiscal year.

Some of our social enterprise partners in 2022-2023 were:



Snapshot of the impact of our social enterprise programs in 2022-2023:

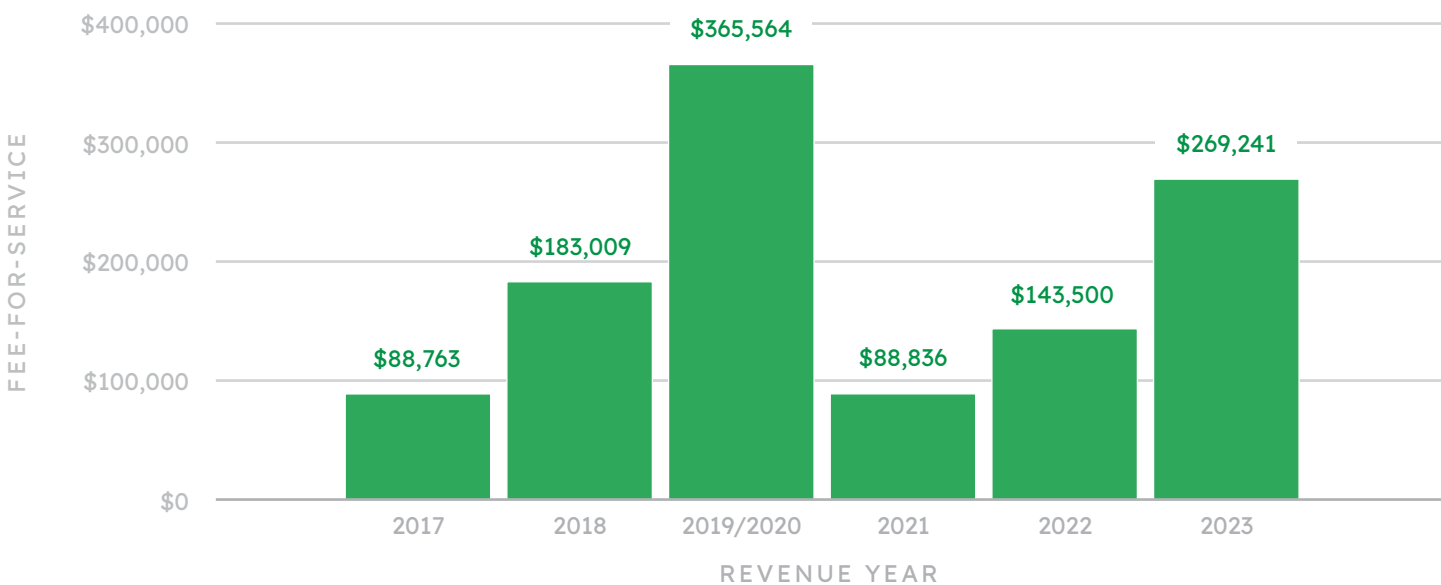
- **107 binners** were involved in social enterprise programs
- **7,670 hours** of economic opportunities
- **\$148,204 went directly** into the pockets of binners through these programs
- **66 income opportunities** each week, on average

MEASURES
OF
SUCCESS



FINANCIAL
OVERVIEW

Social Enterprise Program Revenues 2017 - 2023



DTES STREET MARKET

After deep consultation with the binner-members, our steering committee, core staff team and team at MakeWay, Binnars' Project boldly took on the operations of the Downtown Eastside Street Market in November of 2022.

The DTES Street Market is a city-sanctioned space where vendors can sell their goods and wares without a permit in the Downtown Eastside. This centralized location moves vending off the sidewalks and provides legitimacy to the work of informal vending.

While the Street Market has experienced its challenges over the last few years, we have been proud of what we have been able to do since taking on this work. Through working closely with the City and Vancouver Police

“...we have provided income opportunities to a team of 14 peer workers, who make sure the market runs smoothly each day.”

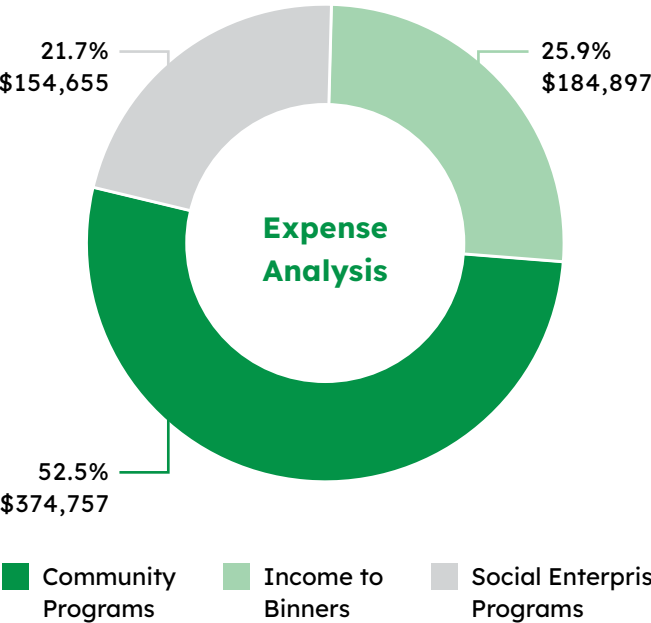
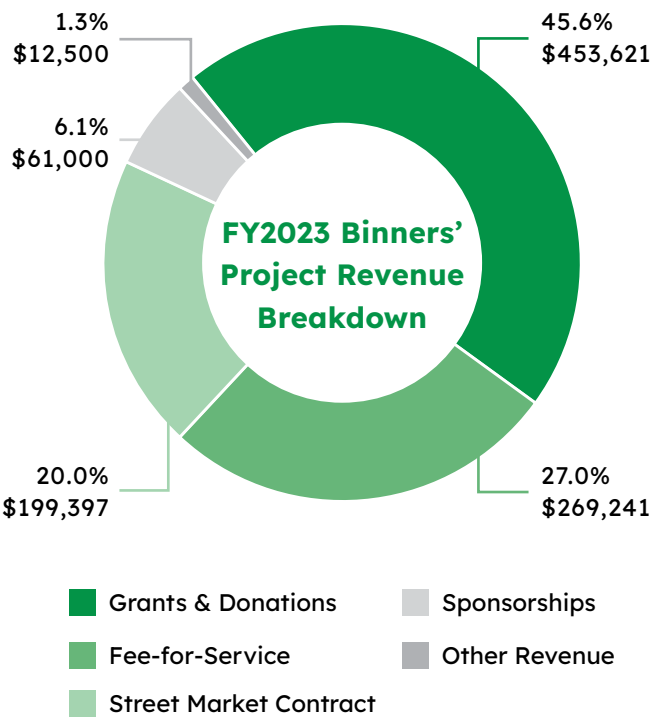
Department, we developed a banned items list with the goal of keeping the market safe and free of stolen goods and we have provided income opportunities to a team of 14 peer workers, who make sure the market runs smoothly each day.

While the market's needs will likely change in the coming year as it moves from its location at 26 E Hastings, we know there still much more work to do to continue supporting the vendors who are striving to legitimize their role in the circular and informal economies.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

This year, we celebrated an incredible milestone — \$1,000,000 earned by binners over the life of Binners' Project!

At this year's fundraiser, we were able to honour this achievement with stories from binners, cake, and by raising a whopping \$37,000 in just 30 minutes to help us continue providing supportive income opportunities for our members.



BINNERS' PROJECT FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The fiscal year being reported on was from April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023 and is described as FY2023.

\$184,897.06

went directly
to bidders

8,281

hours given to bidders
across all our programs



179

bidders engaged in our
programs throughout
the year

**Over
\$1,000,000**

earned by bidders over
the life of the Project

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our work takes place on the shared, unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skxwú7mesh (Squamish) & səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

**MakeWay Charitable Society,
our Shared Platform**

Binners’ Project joined the shared platform in 2015, which provides operational supports, governance, and charitable expertise for changemakers. The shared platform enables more time and money to go towards achieving greater impact. MakeWay is a national charity that builds partnerships and solutions to help nature and communities thrive together.



**Don't wait until our next
report for an update!**

Join us on social media or our low-traffic email list to keep up with our activities year-round:

-  Binners' Project
-  @Binners_Project
-  @binners_project
-  Binners' Project



**Scan the QR code to sign
up for our newsletter!**