



President's Report April 2022

[Humbly and with gratitude plagiarized from Nadja's 2020 President's Report]

In 2021 we continued to adapt our programming to keep up with the ever changing regulations associated with the ongoing pandemic. As in 2020, we successfully pivoted and continued to provide most of our programs, including some of the school based programs, although disappointingly had to cancel the Harvest Hootenanny at the last minute. Our Garden Guru expanded programming to include a radio show, and bingo and film showings have joined our line up of fun ungarden related mini fundraisers, thanks to our creative and energetic current Executive Director, Kelsey Gasparini. The summer and fall of 2022 will see us hopefully running all our usual programs as well—all of our school based Farm to Table programs, the Garden & Art Tour, our other gardens at the RVAC and downtown. We are even hoping to add (contingent on funding) a Fall Food Fest to bring people together to celebrate food from a cultural perspective.

In exciting news, we gained a new garden space at Track Street and have already hired a new contractor, Bryce Borlick (whom some of you may know from the Food bank and the beautiful gardens at Take to Heart Mill) for that position to build the beds and grow the gardens. In 2021 we also formed two new committees, the Food Commons Committee and the Equity and Inclusion Committee. The Food Commons Committee set out to find land on which we could put a demonstration farm. Finding land proved to be insurmountable at the time, but in good news, the City has taken an interest in this idea and has incorporated it into their current planning. The Equity and Inclusion Committee is exploring the issues of equity and inclusion as it relates to food and considering ways to integrate them into the LFI's programming.

We started 2021 with Kate Borucz as our Executive Director but she finished out her contract with us just in time to have a baby. Congratulations Kate! Kelsey was chosen to be our new ED and she has done an outstanding job.

Fundraising through grants continued to be strong in 2021 and as the financial report will disclose, we closed out strong. As always the Columbia Basin Trust has been very generous with their support of our programming. In 2021 we also received funding from Revelstoke Credit Union, the BC Government, and the City of Revelstoke, whom we would like to thank as well.

As a sign of a growing LFI, we converted two positions to employees from independent contractors in accordance with federal employment law—Executive Director and Market Manager.

The market continues strong and continues to grow. We are excited to be back downtown for the summer of 2022.

In 2021, we lost our long time Board member and most recent Board President, Nadja Luckau. I have had big boots to fill and hope I have done them justice in my first year as President.