OCCA Communities Association

Annual Impact Report 2025

Building community and supporting newcomers and seniors for over 15 years.











Organization Overview

The OCCA Communities Association is a registered charity and non-profit umbrella organization serving multicultural communities across the Okanagan Valley.

At OCCA, we believe that vibrant communities are built when people of all backgrounds come together in mutual understanding and support. We offer a range of services and programs to meet the diverse needs of newcomers and equity-deserving groups, helping them overcome barriers and succeed at every stage of their journey.

Mission:

Our mission is to promote mutual understanding, respect, acceptance, and harmony among the diverse communities of the Central Okanagan. We empower immigrants and refugees by meeting their essential needs and providing opportunities to engage fully in all aspects of community life, from civic participation to cultural exchange and economic inclusion.

Vision:

We envision a vibrant and equitable society where people of all backgrounds thrive together. In this future, immigrants, refugees, and equity-deserving groups are valued as essential contributors, meaningfully engaged in creating sustainable, interconnected communities that reflect our region’s diversity and shared humanity.



Our Board of Directors in 2025



Dr. Hua Meng

President



Yewon Yim



Bella Fermin Mockford



Jimmy Yan



Mundia Kabunda (Lady Dia)



Adrian Marr



Qiuyan Li



Charisse Daley



Wen Zhang



Fei Liu MEd

Executive Director

Big thanks to our community sponsor, **HYGGE Photography Studio**, for beautifully capturing photos of our board members and so many others in our community throughout the year.

Message from the Executive Director

As we reflect on 2025, I am deeply grateful for the resilience, generosity, and collaboration of the communities and the partners who walk alongside us. This year marked a significant chapter for OCCA, defined by measurable progress in advancing equity, inclusion, and connection across the Okanagan.

We amplified voices that have too often gone unheard, building bridges between communities, institutions, and generations. In solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, Black communities, diverse Asian communities, and other equity-deserving groups, we advanced community-led advocacy, cultural heritage preservation, and inclusive economic initiatives.

A key milestone this year was the launch of the Okanagan Chinese Canadian History Project, in partnership with the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC, preserving shared memory and honouring early pioneers. At the same time, our core programs—from seniors services and youth leadership to entrepreneurship and newcomer support—continued to grow in reach and impact.

Our goal remains clear: to ensure that racialized and underserved communities are not only seen, but recognized as valued contributors to the region's social and economic fabric.

None of this would be possible without our Board, staff, volunteers, advisors, funders, and partners. Your continued support enables us to translate shared priorities into tangible results.



Looking ahead, OCCA remains committed to listening, learning, and leading with care, championing inclusive storytelling, equitable opportunities, and solutions shaped by the people we serve.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

True strength is built in connection—when we move forward together, we all rise.

Fei Liu MEd

Executive Director,
OCCA Communities Association



Our Impact Area

We are proud to offer our services to members of Kelowna, West Kelowna, Peachland, and Lake Country, with our region spanning nearly 100 kilometres, from Peachland to Vernon.

Our virtual programs reach rural areas across the Okanagan, reinforcing our commitment to foster an inclusive, vibrant, and equitable society where immigrants, refugees, and equity-deserving groups can thrive and meaningfully contribute to building a sustainable community.

700+

Participants registered for core services

3,500+

Participants attended events



Our Programs

Seeing the gap in our community over the past 15 years, OCCA's programs have evolved to serve the diverse needs of our participants. We now offer programs to assist in every aspect of a newcomer or community member's journey or life stage including the following:

- Language Training and Translation Services
- Employment and Skills Training
- Childcare Programs
- Civic Engagement and Volunteerism
- Social and Cultural Exchange
- Senior Engagement and Support
- Community Space Sharing
- Immigrant Entrepreneur Support
- Anti-Racism Program

2,693+

Participants across all programs throughout the year







505

program participations for ESL



4,423

ChildCare Activities Attendances



1,073

program participations for Senior's Outreach



Finding Belonging:

Noushin’s Journey of Growth in Canada

My name is Noushin, and I was part of Cohort 3 of the JCF program. I discovered OCCA about a year ago when I was desperately searching for work and feeling depressed and unproductive after working for a long time in general jobs. I believed my skills had no value here, and I felt lonely without a community. But through OCCA, I received support, friendship, and guidance that changed my life.

In this past year, I completed English 12, earned certificates in Project Management and Green Building and Retrofit, and achieved my dream of becoming a yoga instructor. I joined the Folk Fest board, helped organize cultural events, taught dance, performed in multiple festivals, ran a food booth, analyzed OCCA’s processes, and even established a small social enterprise. I am also learning Tai Chi with a wonderful group I met through OCCA.

Today, I feel confident, connected, and part of the community I live in. I have friends who care for me, and I care for them. I truly wish that every newcomer could have these opportunities and connections in their first months in Canada—it would make their journey much easier.

The quote I’d like to share is:
“Before joining OCCA, I felt lonely, discouraged, and unsure of my place in Canada. Through the JCF program, I found confidence, friendship, and a true sense of belonging. My journey changed when I realized I could grow again, learn again, and rebuild my purpose. I hope every newcomer can experience this kind of support in their early months of immigration.”



Our Events Report

A core part of OCCA's mission is to promote community belonging. Through our events, thousands of community members have found connection in various ways.







3,576
Community Members Engaged

50+
Events hosted









Our Community

We are proud to have many dedicated community members many of whom have donated countless hours toward building a more inclusive and diverse community.

We are grateful to all volunteers for their time and commitment this year.

396
Volunteers

17,764
Volunteer hours

$424,737.24
Hours translated to monetary value.



Belonging In Action

Thoughts from OCCA Past Presidents



Being part of OCCA has enriched my life in so many ways. I'm grateful for the support and connection I've gained through the community programs, and for the opportunity to help others in return.

Bin Qi,
OCCA Former President



I was honoured and privileged to join the OCCA in 2011, promoting Chinese music and dance to convey traditional values, history, and folklore, fostering Chinese cultural identity and self-confidence to Kelowna communities

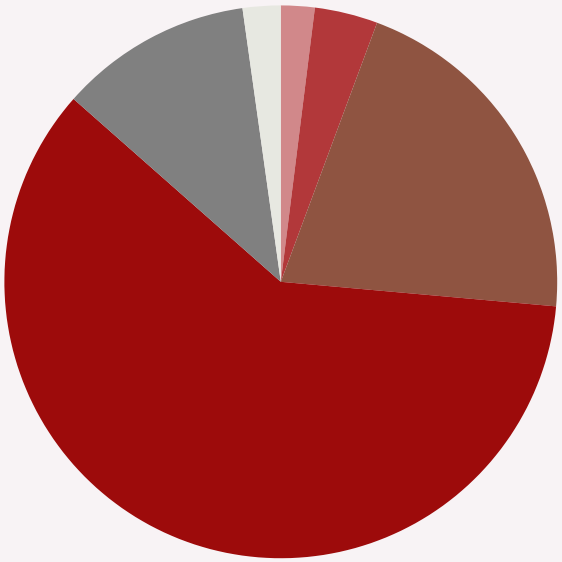
Silver Leung
OCCA former president



OCCA's strength comes from its people—volunteers, members, partners, and families who believe in belonging. I'm proud of the way our community continues to grow through connection, collaboration, and shared support.

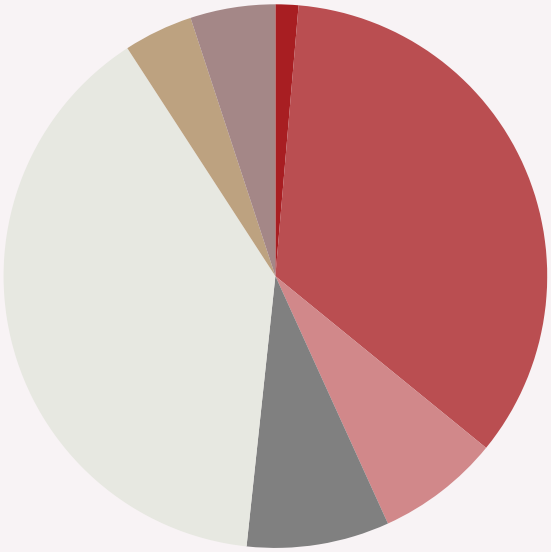
Ling Fu
OCCA Former President

Financials



Revenue Sources 2025

Government	$525,418.99
Foundations	$181,468.00
Fee for Service	$98,616.05
Donations & Business Contributions	$49,699.00
Fundraising Sales	$19,384.61
Other	$17,245.25
Total Revenue	**$891,831.00**



Expenditures 2025

Payroll Expenses	$301,420.00
Contract Services	$265,856.00
Supplies	$65,351.00
Facilities & Equipment	$56,386.00
Professional Fees	$31,695.00
Honorarium Paid	$10,480.00
Other	$38,901.00

(Amortization, Bank Charges, Interest on Long-Term Debt, Office, Travel, Vehicle, Volunteer Appreciation)

Total Expenditures **$770,089.00**

Excess of revenue over expenses before deferred revenue allocation	$121,742
Net deferred revenue allocation	($105,863)
Excess of revenues over expenses	$15,879

Figures are taken from OCCA's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025, audited by RHN CPA., Chartered Professional Accountants. OCCA follows the deferral method of accounting: restricted contributions are recognized in the year the related expenses are incurred. At December 31, 2025, $124,273 of contributions received had not yet been recognized and is carried forward to 2026 programming.

Belonging Without Erasure:

Reflections from the OCCA Board Member Lady Dia

Serving as a Board Director at OCCA has been a great pleasure and a humbling experience. I am proud to say that OCCA continues to show up in non-performative care and consideration by granting and creating spaces of multicultural inclusivity while remaining rooted in their Chinese identity.

I have witnessed OCCA show pride in being a part of the Canadian community while acknowledging and continuing the ongoing unlearning, of settler- colonial relations when it comes to the rights of Indigenous Peoples. understanding how we, as first, second or even third generation immigrants have a role to play in recognizing ensuring we do not add further harm by erasing Indigenous voices.

Lady DiaMelodia

Board Director,
OCCA Communities Association



Sponsors & Partners

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, partners and community members. We are deeply grateful for their continued belief in and investment in our community.

Your company's support makes this work possible. Consider a donation to OCCA to have your logo featured and help us continue creating meaningful impact.

2025 Donors & Community Support

Our work is powered by the generosity of our donors. We're incredibly grateful for their continued trust, belief in our mission, and commitment to supporting our community.

Capital Projects, Cash, & Operations Contributions

Allan Hao
Arthur and Pearl Lo
Changxin Jiang 彭长信 / Motel 5000
Charisse Daley
David Jones
Duane Thomson
Dongquan He 何东泉 / Minmei Zhang 张敏梅
Fei Liu
Dr. Hua Meng
John Lee
John Xia / 夏志勇
Karen Yuan / 阮愛珍 / Hilton Kate
Kun Tun / 谭琨
Nina Hong 洪妮娜 / Lucky Zhang 张育进
Patrick Ng
Kee Sing (Paul) Low
Sarah Nishimura
Service Corporation International, Dignity Memorial
Shaoyun Tang
Shawn Baenziger
Xiang Zhang
Zhenyu Zhang 张振宇

In Kind Contribution: Material and Space for Programs

Glenmore Farmer's Market
Dr. Hua Meng
Impact Upstream Ventures Inc.
Jonathan Zhang (Xin Zhang)
Kenneth Laninga / Crusader Signs
RHN
Rotary Centre for the Arts
Zhishen Cheng Julian
Dragon King Restaurant
Asian Pear Buffet
Rollingdale Winery

Please note that this list is presented in alphabetical order and does not reflect the size or frequency of donations. Many supporters have contributed in multiple ways, and OCCA is deeply grateful for every gift.

Bridging Worlds:

Ping Liu’s journey to finding community and confidence.

As a mother and grandmother, I came to Kelowna to support my son and his family as they pursued their dreams in Canada.

When I first arrived, the snow-capped mountains and lakes were breathtaking. The cherries and wine were sweet, yet beneath that sweetness lingered a subtle trace of homesickness. While the warm smiles of strangers conveyed kindness, it was OCCA that became the steady anchor allowing me to truly settle into life in Kelowna.

Here, I found warmth, encouragement, and support that helped me overcome language barriers and adjust with confidence. OCCA’s programs, from cultural and historical initiatives to business and skills training, are practical, thoughtful, and meaningful. My children have benefited greatly from them. For me, OCCA is more than an organization; it is a place where homesickness finds rest, a sense of belonging in a new land. Here, I have made friends, found purpose, and added colour and meaning to my life.

Through Kelowna, I came to touch Canada. Through OCCA, I came to better understand the broader community. This bridge, from the outer world to the inner heart, is one OCCA has built. Thank you, OCCA, and may every dreamer find fulfillment in Kelowna.



Creating Hope

Thoughts from OCCA Volunteers



Dance has taught me that every step matters, and I feel the same way about building community. Every gathering, every conversation at OCCA creates a ripple of connection and hope.

Vicky Chan
OCCA Volunteer since 2012



Working with OCCA is meaningful to me. Supporting an organization that creates real social impact and strengthens our community is something I'm proud to be part of.

Jordg Lemita
OCCA Volunteer, Sponsor, and Partner, President of Okanagan Filipino Canadian Society (OFCS)



OCCA has been a place of support, connection, and belonging for us. Through volunteering and giving back as donors, we are grateful to support a community that genuinely cares and makes everyone feel welcome.

Nina Hong & Lucky Zhang
Volunteers, program participants and donors



Support Our Mission

Belonging can't wait, and OCCA is dedicated to keeping this work alive and meaningful in our community. If you'd like to join us and help make a difference, here are a few ways you can donate.

Donate by Cheque:
OCCA Communities Association

Donate by E-transfer:
info@occabc.ca. You do NOT need to set a security question or answer

Donate by Direct Deposit:
contact info@occabc.ca to get the direct deposit information

Donate through our Website:

www.occabc.ca/donate



Building a Future

Thoughts from OCCA Community Partners



What OCCA is doing right now is both timely and impactful—bringing people together across cultures and creating spaces where everyone feels welcome. We are proud to stand alongside OCCA in advancing equity and belonging.

Akiko Yoshizaw
President of Kelowna Japanese Language Society (KJLS)



OCCA doesn't just create programs; it creates connections. It's a space where cultures meet, stories are shared, and community becomes something you can actively participate in. Supporting OCCA aligns deeply with my belief that creativity and collaboration are powerful tools for bringing people together and strengthening the fabric of our community.

Guri Bassi,
Volunteer, sponsor, and partner; Founder of iMarkit Media



We are working together to strengthen our diverse communities, with OCCA making a dedicated effort to empower people across cultures. I'm proud to support and volunteer with an organization that uplifts diverse communities and fosters a true sense of belonging for all.

Samj Ife
Founder & President of Africans in Okanagan



I always feel supported by OCCA, which gives me a strong sense of peace of mind and belonging as an immigrant in Canada, while also empowering members of our Korean community.

Yewon Yim
Former President, Okanagan Korean Culture & Knowledge (OKCK)



OCCA creates spaces where diverse communities feel seen, supported, and connected. I appreciate OCCA's leadership in fostering collaboration and inclusion across cultures in our community.

Saul Gomez
Founder & Director, Latino Voices Society (LVS)



OCCA's work has brought renewed energy and unity to our community. Their commitment to preserving Chinese heritage while fostering inclusion has helped strengthen both our traditions and our sense of belonging in the Okanagan.

Master Shui Lee
Chairman, Kelowna Chinese Freemasons



OCCA's work makes a real difference in building inclusive, welcoming communities in Kelowna. I deeply value our shared commitment to celebrating cultural diversity and creating opportunities for people to connect across cultures.

Elna von Dach
OCCA Volunteer since 2008, Founder of OFCS (Okanagan Filipino-Canadian Society), Chair of Kelowna Folkfest



As a small organization with limited resources, we truly appreciate OCCA's generosity and support. Their commitment to uplifting diverse communities has made a meaningful difference and helps cultures thrive in the Okanagan. We are deeply grateful.

Master Linda Jia
President, Dragon Spirit Tai Chi Association

Please note that community partners are listed in no particular order and do not reflect the depth or scope of their contributions. Each partnership plays a meaningful role, and we are sincerely grateful for the support, collaboration, and trust as we continue working toward a more equitable future.

Plans for 2026

In 2026, OCCA will continue to expand programs and services that support newcomers, youth, families, and seniors, including career development initiatives, tax and legal support, and anti-racism efforts.

We plan to continue hosting signature cultural and community events, such as the Spring Lantern Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, and Asian Heritage Month, while maintaining our ongoing seniors' programs, parents' forums, and community safety initiatives.

Our work will also be strengthened through the development of the OCCA Multicultural Centre, providing a dedicated space for connection, learning, and celebration for all members of the community.



Thank You

2025 was a year of growth, connection, and impact, made possible by the generosity and engagement of our community and supporters. As we look ahead to 2026, OCCA remains committed to building belonging, celebrating culture, and providing programs that empower newcomers, families, youth, and seniors. Together, we can continue to create spaces where everyone feels seen, supported, and connected — and every contribution brings us closer to that vision.

CONTACT US

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