



POSITIVELY McLaren

For friends, family & supporters of McLaren Housing Society of BC



Message from the Executive Director

I would like to start my spring message by offering sincere thanks to everyone who supported our 2018 Christmas appeal, which raised just over \$5,000 for our programs and services. These are challenging times for many not for profits like McLaren Housing Society who do not have the luxury of professional fundraisers, and your donations renewed our spirits. What a fantastic show of support!

Due to your support, we held some festive celebrations for our residents over the holidays, and a few birthdays were also celebrated. I personally celebrated a “milestone”, and along with this milestone came the realization that I have now spent half my life in Vancouver. When I first arrived in 1990, McLaren was 3 years old, Helmcken House had recently opened and Dances with Wolves won Best Picture at the Oscars. Moving forward to 1994, Tom Hanks won an Oscar as best actor for Philadelphia. One year later in 1995 I had secured my first position working in the nonprofit housing sector, McLaren was managing Helmcken House and 22 portable subsidies, with 56 individuals receiving housing services.

Between 2002 and 2008 McLaren fought harder to provide services for HIV/AIDS housing and secured funds for additional subsidies, created partner agreements with local housing providers and was able to offer 110 units of housing. During that period, Facebook was created, over 2.3 million people worldwide had died of AIDS, Stephen Harper was elected as Prime Minister and Justin Bieber was discovered through a YouTube video.

In 2010, 20 years after moving to Vancouver, I joined McLaren and watched the City of Vancouver come alive while hosting the Winter Olympics. Fast forward to 2013, McLaren opened Howe Street, more than 250 HIV positive individuals and families were receiving housing and support services. How to Survive a Plague is nominated for an Oscar in the category of Best Documentary.

Bringing us to more recent times in 2018, Aretha Franklin, The Queen of Soul, passed away. Her final live performance was at a 2017 gala event for Sir Elton John's AIDS foundation. John posted a tribute on Instagram, saying: “The loss of Aretha Franklin is a blow for everybody who loves real music: Music from the heart, the soul and the Church. Her voice was unique, her piano playing underrated – she was one of my favourite pianists.” Cannabis is legalized in Canada, Freddie Mercury who passed away from AIDS is celebrated with the release of Bohemian Rhapsody and McLaren continues to expand its programs and services with the announcement of a new housing development in partnership with QMUNITY and the Community Land Trust. In 2019, McLaren now provides affordable housing and support services to more than 280 individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.

What a journey McLaren (and I) are having, and we thank you all who are with us as we move along through history as Canada's first and oldest HIV/AIDS housing provider. I look forward to the rest of our journey together.



I am able to survive because of the efforts of McLaren housing staff. They've been there when needed.





Sam's Dance has an exciting, inclusive idea for engaging people in Vancouver in 2019.

Everyone wants to be part of a community, feel a sense of belonging, and find acceptance for one's authentic self. Both Dance in Transit and McLaren Housing Society of BC share the goal of making this possible for people who may feel isolated due to ethnicity, gender, health status, age, changed social status, or recent relocation.

Dance in Transit is a community project of Sam's Dance and its owner, Patricia Hardin. In the spring and summer of 2017, Dance in Transit held 27 free outdoor dance events in 4 downtown Vancouver locations. Over 6,000 people attended, and they received overwhelmingly positive feedback for the project. In 2018, Dance in Transit held 31 events in several locations. Around 12,000 people attended, and the response was even more enthusiastic.

For 2019, Dance in Transit is partnering with McLaren Housing Society of BC. Together they are working towards hosting free events throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2019 in various outdoor venues, and in indoor venues throughout the winter season, all for a nominal charge or donation. Via these events, they aim to promote dance as a healthy, safe social activity; a fun way to form new relationships; achieve a healthy level of fitness and improve quality of life.

Events will be held primarily on weekend evenings, and Dance in Transit hopes to utilize a combination of regular venues like Robson Square, Jim Deva Plaza on Davie Street, Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza and other open-air spaces on a rotating schedule, plus experiment with some new venues. Each event will feature mini-classes in specific dance style, demonstrations, and social dancing to beautiful multi-cultural music.

They hope to entice you out of your homes to join them whether you are new to dance or already part of the dance community; any age; outgoing or more on the shy side; new to the area or a long-time resident; new immigrant; employed or newly retired; single or with a partner or restricted by health issues. Everyone is welcome—the magic is in the mix!

Music and dancing bring people together in real life. To stay abreast of developing Dance in Transit events, please follow McLaren Housing Society on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and check into the Dance in Transit website at www.danceintransit.com, where you can sign up for their newsletter. To view Dance in Transit's 2017 interview with CBC's Gloria Macarenko, please visit <https://youtu.be/tPIV-gK-gBk>.

For information on how to sponsor, become a venue host or more, please contact Patricia Hardin at 604.839.3299 or via email at samsdancevan@gmail.com. We hope to see you all on the dance floor!



McLaren Membership

To all our new members who joined us in the 2018 calendar year, welcome to the McLaren family! Broadening our membership helps McLaren with applications for funding and grants from City, Provincial and National bodies. For more information on becoming a member, please email Graeme Boyd, McLaren Director at membership@mclarenhousing.org. There is a minimal time commitment, which includes attending McLaren's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Annual membership fee is \$5.00 per person.

McLaren Sparkles

Celebrate Pride with fun, frivolity, food & fireworks at the
19th Annual McLaren Sparkles!
Meet, mingle & raise funds for Canada's
first and longest running HIV Housing Provider.

Wednesday, July 31st, 2019

Doors Open @ 7:30pm

Sparkling Wine Welcome, Host Bar, Scrumptious Canapés, Live &
Silent Auctions and fabulous
"Sparkle & Shine, Pick Your Wine!" Treasure Table.

TD Tower Penthouse, 29th Floor - 700 West Georgia Street

\$140 per Guest (tax receipt issued for \$60)
Tickets at mclarenhousing.org or 604.669.4090

Host & Emcee

"The Unstoppable"
Conni Smudge



Venue Sponsor



Event Sponsors



Wine/Host Bar Sponsors



In-kind Partners



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McLaren Housing Society
www.mclarenhousing.com

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For more information on how to become part of this signature fundraising event as a Sponsor or Live/Silent Auction donor, please contact Pamela Buck, Event Organizer at pbuck@eventulinnovations.com or 604.551.5143

Our Mission

To provide housing and support services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS to increase the opportunity for improved health, wellness, independent living and sense of community.

Thank You to Our 2018 Donors and Program Funders

Anonymous, Kathleen Baillie, Tony Barnard, BC Housing, Canadian Online Giving Foundation, City of Vancouver, Entreprise de Communication Tank Inc., Geoffrey Glotman, Government of Canada, Mike Hoche, Evelyn Hortobagyi, Kristy Kerr, MAC AIDS Fund, Maidstone United Church, Mark Mees, Philippe Mondor, Melissa Olsen, PAL Vancouver, Doris Paré, Scott Pilgrim, Providence Health Care, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, John Storer, Vincent Carey, John Fournier, Deborah Gibson, Pat Hall, Reinaldo Hamamoto, David Marsh, Daphne McLaren, Verna Pounder, Benjamin Shek, The Cutting Edges Hockey Club, The Zacks Family Charity Foundation, United Way, John Van Andel, Vancouver Coastal Health, Cleo Wong, Wanda Woods.

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“

McLaren helped me a lot else I would be homeless, especially when I was so sick, especially because I'm all by myself.

”

 /McLarenHousing
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YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT MCLAREN HOUSING SOCIETY OF BC

First & Last Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Pr: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Donation Amount: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$ _____ In Memory of: _____

In Honour of: _____ In Celebration of: _____

☐ Anonymous Donation ☐ Please do not send me newsletters or other information via email (mailing list)

Visa/MasterCard #: _____ Exp: ____/____ 3-digit code on back of card: _____ or ☐ Cheque enclosed

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Or visit www.mclarenhousing.org to donate online. All donations gratefully accepted.

We do not rent, sell or trade our donor info/mailling list. Information is collected for tax receipt purposes only.