

Common Ground Foundation

2024
Report to
Community

***Welcome
Everyone***



common ground
FOUNDATION

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We Are All Treaty People

03

In the spirit of respect, truth, and reconciliation, Common Ground Foundation acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta.

This land is the ancestral and continued home of several Indigenous peoples: the Blackfoot Confederacy, comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai Nations; the Tsuut'ina Nation; and the Stoney Nakoda Nations of Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney. We also recognize that the City of Calgary, known traditionally as Mohkínstsis, is the historic homeland of the Northwest Métis and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

Our commitment extends beyond acknowledgment; it is an integral part of our mission to engage with and honour the rich histories, cultures, and rights of Indigenous peoples. We aim to foster an environment where the traditions and contributions of Indigenous communities are respected and celebrated as we strive for collective progress in the spirit of reconciliation and community building.

At Common Ground Foundation, we are reminded daily of our responsibility to serve as respectful stewards of this land. We acknowledge that our work, based here in Mohkínstsis, must align with our values of partnership, respect, and acknowledgment of the Indigenous communities whose practices and relationships with the land continue to teach and inspire us.

Letter From Leadership



Dear Friends and Partners,

This year at the Common Ground Foundation, in collaboration with Common Ground Ventures, we have taken bold strides toward realizing a vision deeply rooted in the heart of North Central Calgary—the creation of The Junction on Common Ground. This initiative isn't just about building structures; it's about laying the foundation for a vibrant and connected community hub that transcends traditional boundaries and fosters growth, connection, and cultural exchange.

Our journey has been shaped significantly by the pioneering efforts of both the Foundation and Ventures, as we lay the groundwork for a sustainable model that harmoniously blends social enterprise with robust community development. The dynamic ecosystem we are fostering at The Junction represents our commitment to a community where commercial success and social impact are not just aligned but are mutually reinforcing.

The partnerships we've nurtured this year extend across a spectrum of local businesses, non-profit organizations, and key stakeholders, including the City of Calgary. These relationships are crucial; they bring diverse perspectives and resources to the table, enhancing the Junction's development and ensuring its responsiveness to the evolving needs of our community.

As we reflect on the progress made and anticipate the exciting developments ahead, we are reminded of the power of collective effort and shared vision. The architectural ingenuity of GGA Architecture has been instrumental in translating our aspirations into a tangible form, one that promises flexibility, sustainability, and accessibility. Highlights of the upcoming Junction include a central food hall, co-working spaces, a performance theatre, childcare facilities, recreation spaces and much more—all designed to support and enrich our community's life.

As we continue to build The Junction on Common Ground, we invite you to join us in this transformative journey. Together, we are not just constructing a space—we are crafting a legacy of belonging, growth, and connection that will resonate for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Let's build on this ground together.

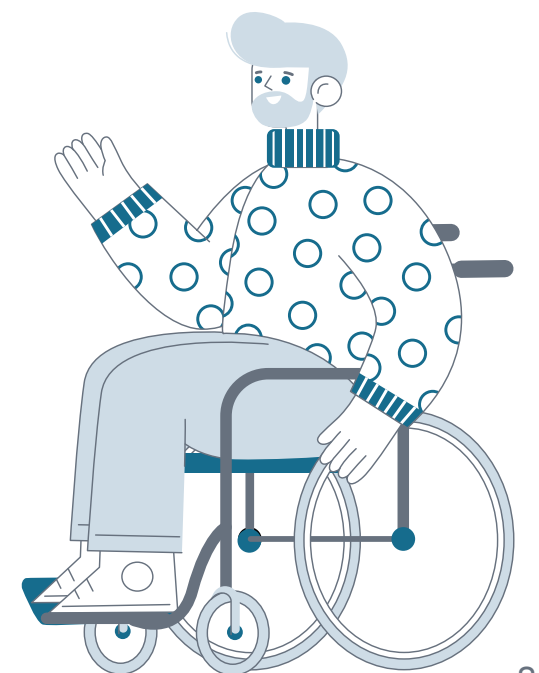
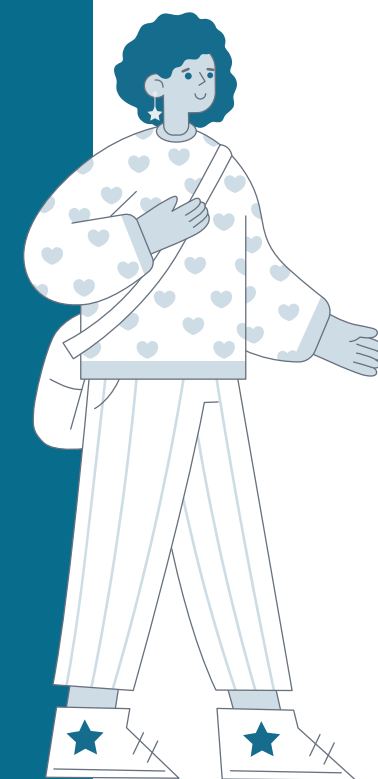
With Appreciation,

Zach Manntai
Managing Director
For The City
On behalf of the Common Ground
Foundation Board of Directors



Who We Are

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At Common Ground Foundation, we are architects of community and connectors at heart. Our foundation thrives on creating welcoming spaces that act as catalysts for community growth and personal development. Our holistic approach integrates economic, physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being, ensuring that each endeavour enriches lives and nurtures the fabric of our community.

Our work is built on the pillars of creativity, unity, and sustainability. We actively cultivate dynamic, versatile spaces where diversity is celebrated, connections are forged, and every person has the opportunity to thrive. Through innovative collaborations and dedicated community engagement, we aim to transform spaces into vibrant hubs of activity and interaction.

Our focus on accessible, environmentally responsible designs ensures that our projects are not only sustainable but also integral to the ongoing vitality of the communities we serve.

In all we do, Common Ground Foundation remains committed to fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment, making every space we touch a beacon of community spirit and a foundation for future growth.

***Welcome
Everyone***

Our Vision & Mission

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to cultivate welcoming spaces that ignite creativity, foster connections, and enable individuals and families to grow together, strengthening the fabric of our community.



Vision Statement

We envision a community where every person has the opportunity to thrive in all facets of life, empowered by a network of support that fosters economic, physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being.

Our Values

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We cherish the power of community, inviting everyone to participate and prosper within our collective embrace. Our approach is rooted in making everyone feel welcomed and uplifted, empowering individuals to thrive with us.

Empowerment & Connectedness

We prioritize the creation of spaces that emerge from the heart of the community's needs, fostering social interaction and communal growth.

Community-Driven Development

We are dedicated to advancing spaces that are both environmentally responsible and accessible to all, promoting a legacy of stewardship and open-hearted design.

Sustainability & Accessibility

We strive for the transformation of spaces into vibrant, multi-use areas that enhance the quality of community life through diverse activities and celebrations.

Dynamic & Versatile Spaces

We recognize the strength of working hand in hand with partners at every level to realize spaces that genuinely serve and uplift the community.

Holistic Well-Being

We focus on creating environments that contribute to the community's economic, physical, mental, spiritual, and social health, ensuring a space that is not just pleasing to the eye but also nurturing for the soul.

Collaborative Engagement

We honour the rich tapestry of our diverse community, fostering a sense of unity through creativity. Our tone is a bridge connecting cultures, generations, and backgrounds, establishing a feeling of belonging and a shared mission.

Creative Unity

We are committed to inspiring actions that pave the way for a sustainable future. We articulate our vision with clarity, focusing on our communal responsibility towards the well-being of our society and the planet.

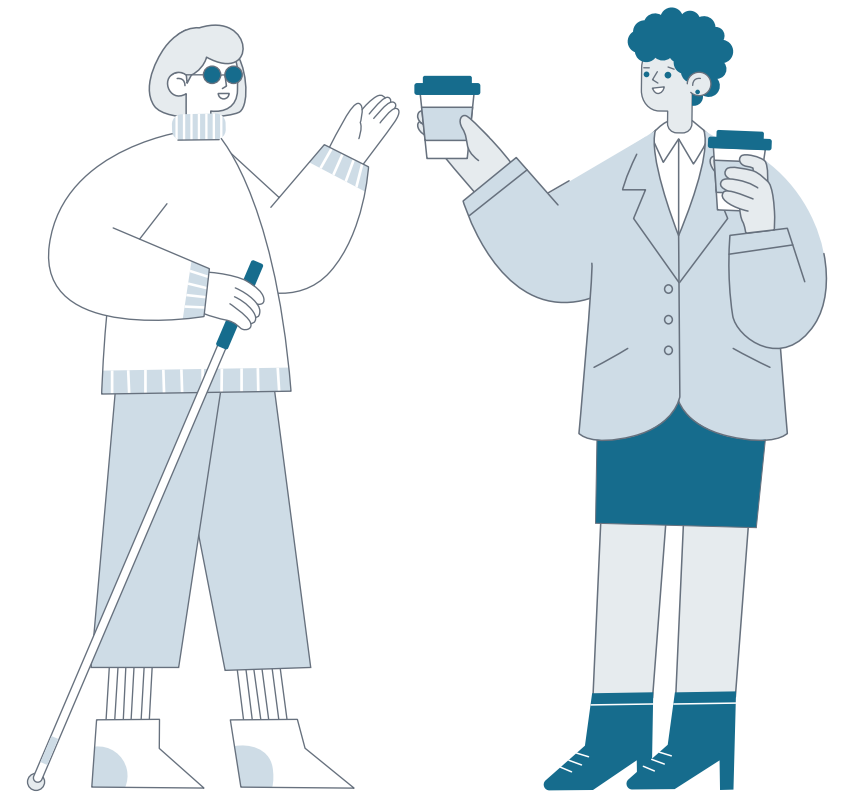
Inspiration

Approachability

We ensure that our foundation is a place where conversations are meaningful and everyone feels significant. We value making genuine connections with people from all walks of life, emphasizing empathy and respect in every interaction.

How We Got Here

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Community Engagement: Crafting Our Collective Vision

Our approach was holistic—digital canvassing paired with heartfelt conversations allowed us to weave every story, suggestion, and aspiration into a vibrant tapestry that is The Junction. The comprehensive needs assessment conducted painted a cultural mosaic, one that underlines the amenities and services craved by the hearts of our community. It is this intricate understanding that has sculpted the community hub’s vision—a vision where every voice resonates and every individual thrives.

Forging Ahead: Envisioning Our Communal Space

The Junction’s blueprint has evolved, shaped by deepening partnerships with stakeholders and honed through strategic alliances. EMI’s collaboration in programming, Linmac LLP’s structural guidance, and the community’s robust response to our RFP have all fueled this vision. The selection of Kasian, and later GGA Architecture, marked milestones in our journey, ensuring The Junction’s design embodies our commitment to a communal space that fosters belonging, nurtures interaction, and guarantees sustainability.

Introduction: A New Chapter for North Central Calgary

In 2022, supported by For The City, the Common Ground Foundation embarked on a transformative mission to embody the diverse voices of over 160,000 North Central Calgary residents in our vision for The Junction on Common Ground. These past two years were not just pivotal but foundational, as we laid the first stones of what will be a community hub where diversity is not just seen but lived and celebrated.

The Junction: Heart of Our Mission

The Junction is the living embodiment of our mission, setting a new standard for community spaces. It is a hub where coordination, placemaking, and community building transform from concepts to lived realities. Inspired by successful models and shaped by the unique needs of our community, The Junction serves as a beacon of the vibrant spirit of North Central Calgary.

The Junction on Common Ground: The Epicentre of Impact

Envisioned as a dynamic core, The Junction promises to be more than a hub; it’s a cradle for community transformation. With spaces designed for purpose—from a food hall celebrating culinary diversity to a gymnasium fostering wellness—every aspect of The Junction is curated to enrich lives. Our daycare centres, co-working spaces, parks, and accessible housing are all interwoven into the fabric of North Central Calgary, ensuring The Junction isn’t just a place to be but a place to belong.

A Look At The Junction

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Together, these facilities form the pillars of The Junction, each designed to elevate the community's aspirations, crafting a hub that is vibrant, connected, and an integral part of our collective journey.



Food Hall & Cafe

A celebration of our community's rich culinary diversity, offering tastes and aromas from around the globe.



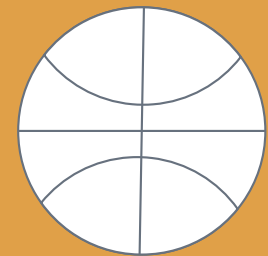
Performance Theatre

A stage for the arts to flourish, bringing together talent and audiences in a shared experience of culture.



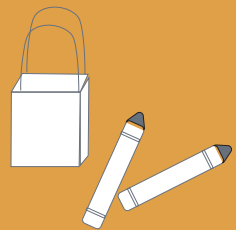
Co-Working & Non-Profit Office Space

Modern, flexible workspaces for innovation, collaboration, and the nurturing of local enterprises.



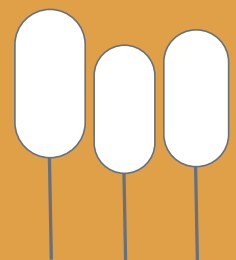
Gymnasium

A centre for health and wellness, encouraging active lifestyles across all ages.



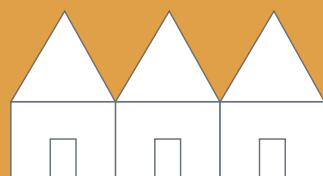
Daycare & Commercial Retail Units

Providing essential services for families and opportunities for businesses to grow.



Parks & Sports Fields

Green spaces for recreation, sports, and community events, fostering a connection with nature and each other.



Housing

Affordable and accessible housing options, ensuring that everyone can call North Central Calgary home.

Next Steps: Engage, Participate, Transform

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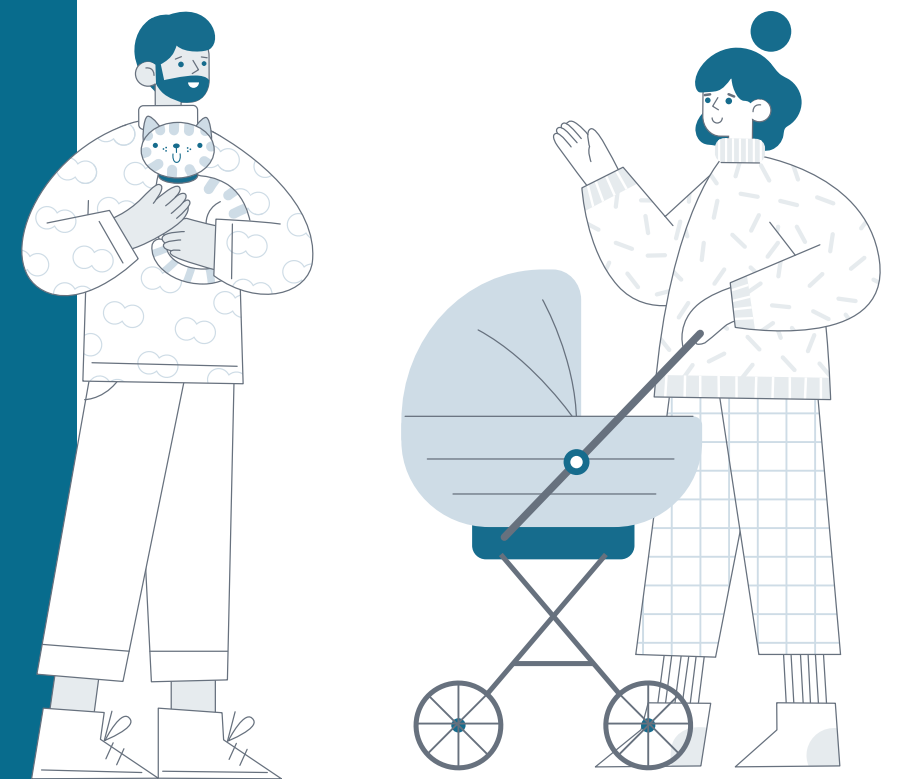
Looking ahead, our path is brightly illuminated by our community's collective enthusiasm and dedication. Your voice catalyzes change; your actions build this shared dream. Here's how you can be a part of this transformative journey:

- Join Our Email List: Stay informed and engaged with regular updates on progress, events, and opportunities to get involved.
- Participate In Focus Groups: Lend your voice to the conversation, and help shape the services and programs at The Junction.
- Support As Investors/Donors: Contribute to the sustainability of our vision, ensuring that The Junction not only thrives today but for generations to come.
- Leadership Opportunities: Consider a role on our Board of Directors, and help steer the direction of our growing community.

“The **journey** ahead is not just about **building** structures; it's about laying down the pathways for **connection, collaboration, and community**. Every step you take with us is a step towards a **brighter, more hopeful** future.”

Just the Beginning: Connect & Contribute

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This report marks the end of a significant chapter in our story, but it is far from the last. The narrative of the Common Ground Foundation is ongoing and ever-evolving, with each new page written by the very people it serves. Connect with us and contribute to the legacy:

Follow Us On Social Media:

@commongroundyyc

– Join our online community and share in our daily journey.

Visit Our Website:

www.commongroundfoundation.ca

– Discover more about our initiatives, successes, and upcoming projects.

Reach Out:

hello@commongroundfoundation.ca

– Your ideas, questions, and insights are always welcome.

We stand at the threshold of an exciting new era for North Central Calgary. With your support, we move forward—towards a community where every individual has a place, every voice is heard, and every dream is valued.

Let's build on this ground together.





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