

VNCS JAPANESE CULTURAL FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

2024 REPORT FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



YEAR 3 AT THE NEW LOCATION



Esquimalt Gorge Park & Pavilion

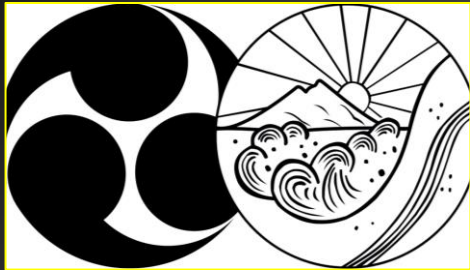
OUT OF TOWN PERFORMERS & PRESENTERS

- This year we welcomed the **Roly Poly String Trio** (Otsu Family) from Salt Spring Island.
- We also welcomed **Haruno Niiyama** and **Yuki Kedoin** as **Hitotose** performing choreographed sword fighting. They are professional Japanese actors and were both most recently seen on the FX series **Shogun**.
- **Anne Evans** from the **Shin Mei Spiritual Centre** on Knapp Island joined us to present on Shinto in North America.

NEW FOOD & SPONSORS IN 2024



Both Hotdog Hustlin & OOTA-YA joined us as new food vendors. Hotdog Hustlin' serving a combination of Filipino and Japanese street food, while OOTA-YA was serving up Oshi (pressed) Sushi.



The Shin Mei Spiritual Centre joined us as a Platinum Level Sponsor and Anne Evans (Guji) presented on Shinto in North America. They also had a tent in our Community Showcase

Full list of food vendors & sponsors available on the website

<https://www.vncs.ca/2024-vncs-japanese-cultural-fair-saturday-august-24th/> .

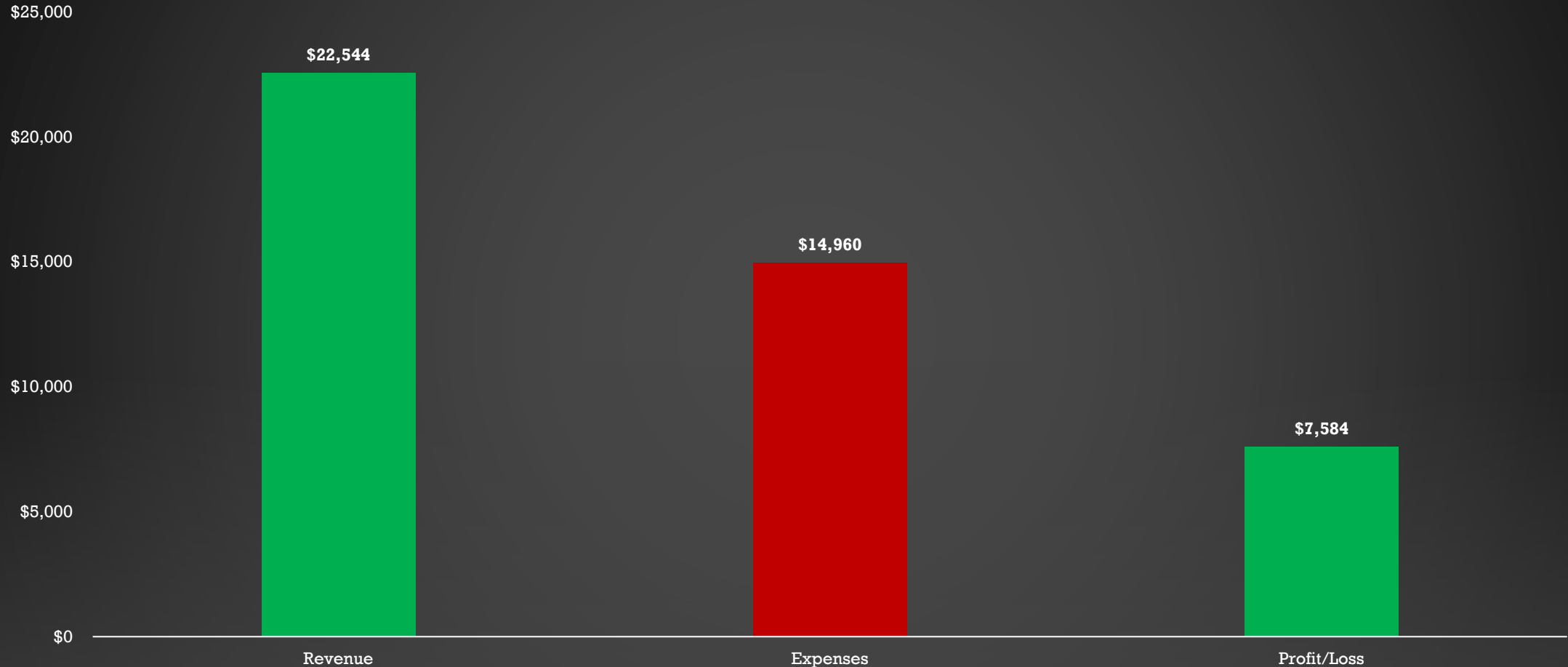
TAKOYAKI GRILL A HUGE HIT!!!



The Leong Family made Takoyaki all day long...the lineups were huge!

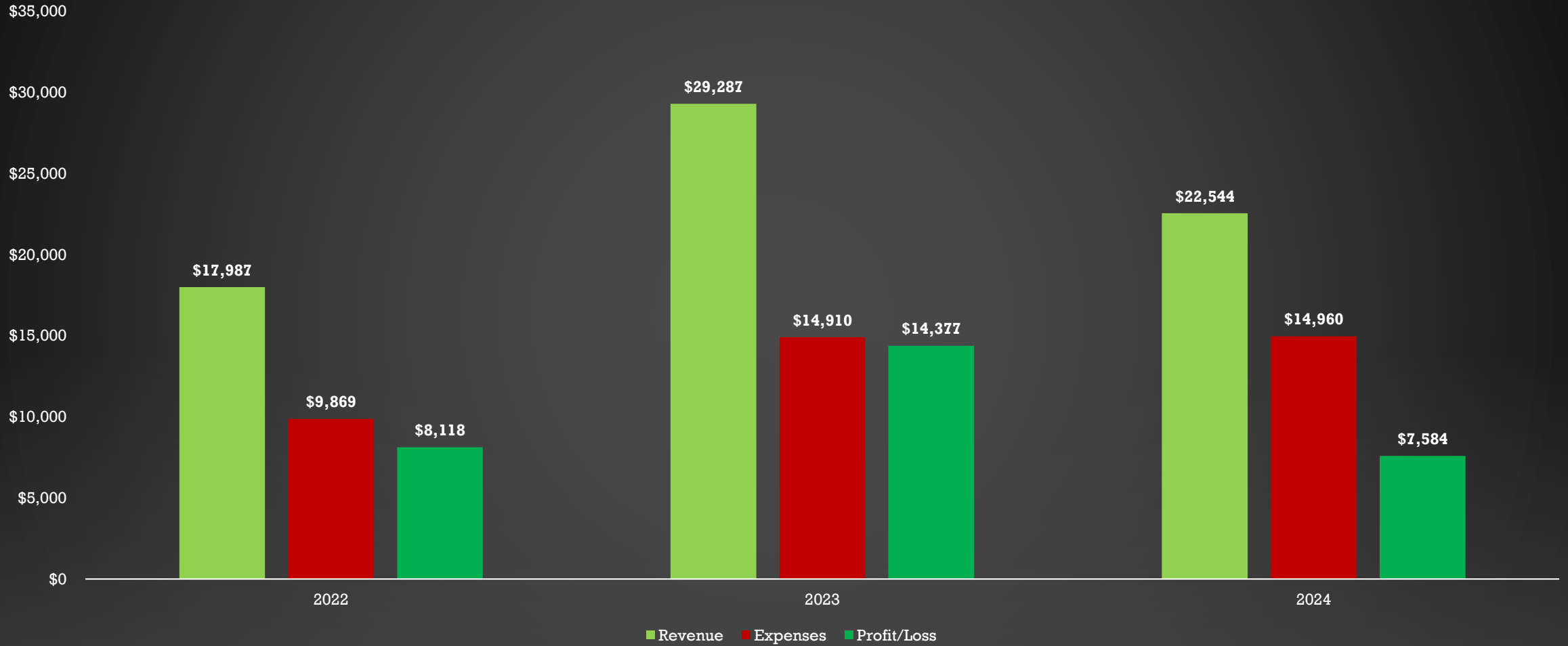
2024 FAIR FINANCES

Fair Finances



Capital purchases were down by \$1000 but Facility rentals were up \$1500 and equipment rentals were up by \$600 over the previous year. The rain in the morning also impacted numbers of attendees.

Fair Finances Year over Year



TAIKO OUTSIDE ON THE FIELD



Taiko was outside for the grand finale.

HITOTOSE SWORD FIGHTING HAS A HIGHLIGHT



Haruno Niiyama and Yuki Kedoin performing choreographed sword fighting.

KONGO DOJO IS NOW A STAPLE AT THE FAIR



Davis Owen Sensei demonstrating self-defence techniques.

SATOMI EDWARDS ON THE KOTO



Satomi has been demonstrating Koto at the fair for many years and the attendees love it!

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteer requirements for the 2024 Fair were scaled up given it was our third year at the new Gorge Park Pavilion location. Volunteers were needed in the following areas and more:

- **Food preparation work party**
- **Setup work parties (night before, morning of)**
- **Silent Auction**
- **Fujinkai/Things Japanese**
- **Food preparation**
- **Food and drink sales**
- **Presentation room coordination**
- **Indoor/outdoor coordination**
- **Parking management**
- **VNCS table/donations**

COMPARISON OF VOLUNTEER NUMBERS

Details	2024	2023	2022	2018
Number of registered volunteers	89	95	98	127
Total person hours - work parties + Fair Day	528	645	400	681
Total person hours – Fair Day only	342	393	316	417

THANK YOU TO OUR PLANNING TEAM LEADS

Amy Kawano (Food Coordinator)

Bob Howell (Parking Coordinator)

Craig Mercer (Fair Co-Lead & Lead Fair Operations)

David Lawson (Finance Coordinator)

Debbie Ibaraki (Contracts & Insurance)

Donovan Aikman (Outdoor Coordinator)

Hatsuho Razban (Kids Activities Coordinator)

Jo Brooks (Donor Solicitation & Indoor Coordinator)

JO Caragata (Donor Solicitation & Fair Ambassador)

Kana Mercer (Food Coordinator)

Lily Yee (Donor Solicitation & Food Sales)

Lorin Goshinmon (Poster, Audio/Visual Coordinator)

Maureen Bird (Volunteer Supports)

Patti Kagawa (Donor Solicitation & Silent Auction Coordinator)

Rebecca Barnard (Donor Solicitation & Fair Operations Support)

Reyna Goshinmon (Donor Solicitation & Things Japanese Coordinator)

Tsugio Kurushima (Donor Solicitation & Performance and Presentation Coordinator)

Val Watanabe (Kids Activities Coordinator)

Yukari Peerless (Fair Co-Lead & Donor Solicitation, Promotions, Mystery Bags)

Yumiko Mizuno (Volunteer Coordinator)

If you would like to join the planning team, email us at info@vnscs.ca.



Thank-You to our 2024 Japanese Cultural Fair Sponsors/Donors



PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS/DONORS

Bell Media (CFAX 1070 and CTV Vancouver Island)
Black Press Media (Monday Magazine & Victoria News)
Fujiya Japanese Foods

Matsuri Foundation (Shin Mei Spiritual Centre)
Township of Esquimalt

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS/DONORS

Days Inn by Wyndham Victoria Uptown
Jim Pattison Auto Group
Ken Mizokoshi
The Woods Family
Sushi Rice Studios
Sushi Story
Yonni's Doughnuts

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS/DONORS

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
Assante Wealth Management (Curtis Cross)
Aura Restaurant at the Inn at Laurel Point
Ayako Ikeda
Bento Sushi
Blenkinsop Driving Range
Bosley's Harris Green
Carlton Plaza Hotel, Best Western
Cineplex Odeon Westshore Cinemas
Elements Casino Victoria
Ene Raw Food and Sake Bar
Fairway Market
Finest at Sea
Ghost Ramen
Goldstream Bicycles
Koto Sushi Izakaya
La-Z-Boy Home Furnishings & Decor
Maiiz Nixtamal
Mark Compton
Moden Boutique
Momo Sushi Colwood
Nicholas Randall
Ono Poke
OTA-YA
Pacific Awning
Pendray Tea House
Pho Boi
Ramen Arashi
Rebecca Barnard
Ruffell & Brown
Sawyer Sewing Centre
Sen Zushi Japanese Restaurant
Victoria Bug Zoo

BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS/DONORS

Alexander's Coffee Bar
Ardmore Golf Course
Buckerfields
Butchart Gardens
Butterfly Gardens
Cameron Barnard
Cozy Koji
Dumpling Drop
Ecotopia Naturals
Goodside Pastry House
Hey Happy Coffee
Hide + Seek Coffee (Fairfield)
Ivy's Bookshop
JagaSilk
KODO collection
KOME KOME (Rice Crackers)
Kuma Noodle
Milestone's Grill & Bar
Munro's books
Murchie's Tea and Coffee
My Thai Cafe
Oak Bay Flower Shop
Pacific Shiatsu
Politano Café
Ron Barnard
Russell Nursery
Seal Point Pizza
Side Street Studio
Starbucks (Royal Bay)
Sushi Time Express
Taste of Tokyo
The Papery
Tony's Hair Design and Tanning Day Spa
Uchida Shokudo
Umi Nami Farms
Vessel Liquor
Wholesome Suds Natural
Handmade Soap
Yoshi Sushi



DOMO ARIGATOU GOZAIMASHITA



THANK YOU!

Full fair report available in the Nov/Dec Nikkei Forum Newsletter ([Volume 32, Issue 5 - September/October 2024](#)) on the VNCS Website.