# 2019-2020 Annual Report

The 38th Annual Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair

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# GVRSF 2020 – A Recap

The Global Pandemic of 2020 forced the first ever cancellation of the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair (GVRSF) in our 38 year history. As Covid-19 spread from across the Globe, our committee continued to diligently work to plan and prepare a 3-day fair that ranks among the best in the country. We hoped that Covid-19 would bypass BC, and that we would be able to host the best and brightest of Greater Vancouver students at the AMS Student Nest.

In early March 2020 the Office of the Provincial Medical Officer recommended the cancellation or postponement of all events with more then 250 people. In accordance with this recommendation, UBC cancelled all classes and events, which included the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair. Many other Regional Fairs across Canada were similarly impacted and cancelled, as was the planned Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) in Edmonton, Alberta. At the time of this cancellation 216 projects from 283 students had registered for the GVRSF, representing 47 schools across the Lower Mainland. Over 200+ judges had volunteered their time to review these projects. Schools from as far as Kamloops had scheduled time to visit the fair, and additional activities had been planned for the students including the HR MacMillan Space Centre StarLab, tours of 12 different UBC labs/facilities, post-secondary workshops and other student activities.

As we dealt with the cancellation of the Fair, we are appreciative that our Sponsors have stood by us as we carry their support over to the 2021 GVRSF. As a volunteer-run organization we were able to offer refunds to all students, and many still found ways to present their projects at the BC Virtual Science Fair. We now focus our efforts on the 2021 GVRSF, and hope that the “new normal” will include a return to Regional Science Fairs in Canada.

Ceddy Nash, Chair

# About the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair (GVRSF)

We are an annual 3-day science fair that:

- Is open to over 100,000 students in grades 7 to 12 attending public, independent, private and home schools, in 10 school districts in the Lower Mainland
- Hosts 300+ students who are keen and invested in today's scientific and technological developments
- Provides $45,000+ in cash, prizes, trips and scholarship awards
- Offers student and educator workshops, research lab tours, and interactive student activities
- Is hosted at the AMS Student Nest at the University of British Columbia (UBC). UBC has generously hosted the GVRSF since 1993.

## Our Mission

To encourage youth to conduct research and experimentation in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

# The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair Society

The GVRSF Society is a registered charity and non-profit organization (BN: 832888564RR0001) run by a diverse group of dedicated volunteers passionate about education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

Most of our members are teachers, university professors, former science fair students, science professionals and educators. The list of committee members on the amazing volunteer team that put on the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair can be found on our website.

Passionate about STEAM education? We welcome you to join our team, email us at Chair@gvrsf.ca!

# Why Science Fairs?

The fair provides a platform for the students to showcase their work and interact with like-minded students, academics, and industry professionals, building and strengthening tomorrow's scientific community.

Science fair projects provide a hands-on approach to science that applies theory to practice, and teaches students the values of hypothesis based tests, independent thinking, and creative problem-solving to prepare them for an increasingly complex world.

Students leave the fair with new knowledge, new friends, and increased interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics!

# BC Virtual Science Fair

The cancellation of the Canada-Wide Science Fair and many Regional Fairs left students without an opportunity to present their work and receive mentor feedback. The Science Fair Foundation BC stepped forward and organized the first ever BC Virtual Science Fair (BCVSF), with 169 projects from 195 students competing from across the Province. This included 80 projects from 99 students in the Greater Vancouver Region. Nineteen of these projects were successful in winning awards at the BCVSF.

**Al Appleton Worksafe Award**
Alysha Lee – Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School
Alex Wang – David Thompson Secondary School

**BC Agriculture in the Classroom Award**
Jonathan Leung – Trafalgar Elementary School

**BC Nature Award**
Jonathan Leung – Trafalgar Elementary School
Mark Hao Jun Pan and Mihailo Misic – Moscrop Secondary School
Gabriel Lee – Prince of Wales Secondary School

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Marth Pearse Award**
Angela Zhou – Magee Secondary School
Jonah Ezekiel – St George's School
David Li – Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School
Yolanda Tan and Pari Goyal – David Thompson Secondary School
Lucie Li – David Thompson Secondary School

**BC Game Developers Innovation Award**
Amy Li – David Thompson Secondary School
Angela Zhou – Magee Secondary School
David Li – Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School
Keon Khodaei – Prince of Wales Secondary School
Leo Zhu and Thomas Einstein – Alpha Secondary School
Tienlan Sun – Eric Hamber Secondary School

**BC Science Teachers' Award**
Samantha Sheh – Prince of Wales Secondary School
Ayaan Jeraj – Prince of Wales Secondary School

**Engineers and Geoscientists BC Award**
Lucie Li – David Thompson Secondary
William Li and Rowan Ross – Burnaby North Secondary School
Ami Li – David Thompson Secondary
Wendy Fang – Moscrop Secondary School

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THE BC/YUKON VIRTUAL SCIENCE FAIR

# Beyond the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair

### International Swiss Talent Forum 2020

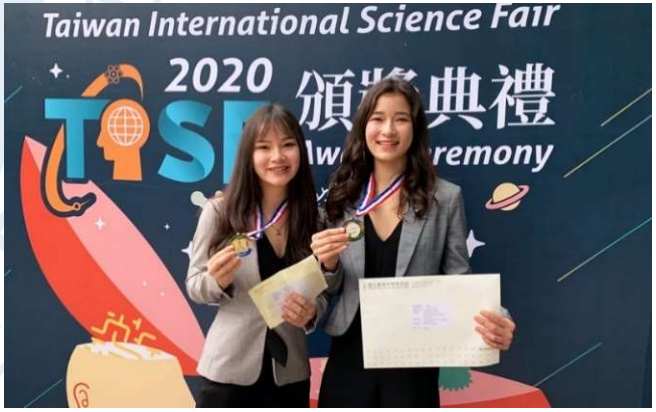
In February 2020 GVRSF Alumnus Kai Leong travelled to Switzerland as one of 70 young adults (18-23 years old) from 25 countries to participate in the International Swiss Talent Forum. This experience was one of several international experience Grand Awards presented by Youth Science Canada at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton, NB. Kai represented the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair in 2017 and 2019 at the Canada-Wide Science Fair winning silver and gold medals.

### CWSF Ambassador

Rebecca Baron was selected by Youth Science Canada to be one of 11 Alumni to serve as an Ambassador at CWSF 2020 in Edmonton. Ambassadors are former CWSF finalists who have graduated secondary school and who will interact with students and chaperones during the CWSF week. Rebecca represented the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair in 2014, 2015, 2018 at the Canada-Wide Science Fair winning bronze, gold and platinum awards.

### Taiwan International Science Fair

Claire and Vanessa Scrimini were selected to represent BC at the Taiwan International Science Fair from February 3-7, 2020. Competing against 300 young scientists from 20 countries, the sisters won a silver medal. Claire and Vanessa represented the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair in 2018 and 2019 at the Canada Wide Science Fair and won a gold medal.



# Beyond the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair

## CASTIC 2019

In July 2019 GVRSF alumnus Kai Leong travelled to Macau, China for the China Adolescent Science and Technology Innovation Contest (CASTIC 2019). Kai's project "Smartphone-Based Gait Analysis: A Boon for Disease Diagnosis" was selected by judges at the CWSF 2019 to be one of two projects from Canada to compete at CASTIC 2019, both of which won gold medals at CATIC 2019.

Team Canada-CASTIC 2019

## MILSET ESI

Three GVRSF alumni were selected to represent Canada at the MILSET ESI (International Science Fair) in Abu Dhabi from September 22-28, 2019. Alexander Sun and Andy Liang (Eric Hamber Secondary School) presented their project "Novel Treatment of Algal Blooms with Viral Transfection and Barley Straw Extract", while Catherine Diyakonov (Lord Byng Secondary School) presented her project "Developing Bioplastic Walls: Reducing Waste and Restoration Costs After Floods".

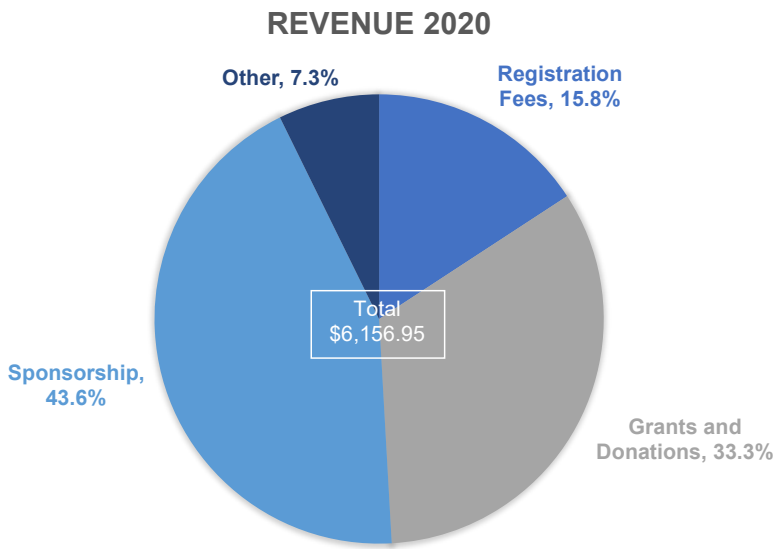
## Youth Innovation Showcase

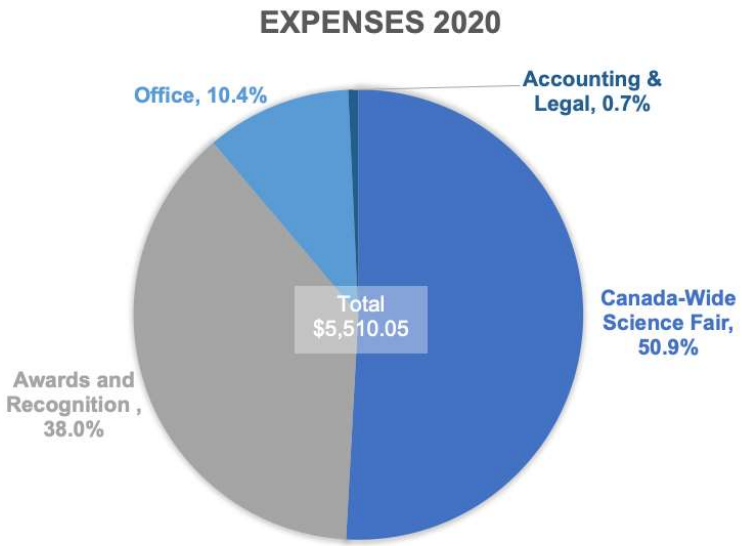
GVRSF alumnus Kai Leong won the 16-19 age category in the Youth Innovation Showcase for his project, "Detection with Smartphone-Based Gait Analysis". GVRSF alumnus Ray Liu was named a finalist in the 20-24 age category for his project, "Sanicube"!

## Schulich Leader Scholarship

GVRSF alumna Maggie Xiong from Burnett Secondary was awarded the prestigious $80,000 Schulich scholarship. Maggie participated in the 2017 GVRSF and will be attending McGill University in Fall 2020 to continue her studies in the Sciences.

# Financial Summary




**Note:** Due to COVID-19, GVRSF 2020 and Canada-Wide Science Fair 2020 were cancelled, and GVRSF registration fees were refunded. Sponsorship funds are extended to GVRSF 2021.

### In-Kind Support

The UBC Faculty of Science generously provides the site of the 3-day fair at the AMS Student Nest Building along with 6 university scholarships and the organization of 14 research lab tours. The UBC Faculty of Applied Science generously provides support for the printing of fair materials.

# Thank You to our Sponsors and Supporters

## Join us for the 39th GVRSF on April 8-10, 2021!

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