

# FOCUS BUZZ NEWSLETTER

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> S C O O P

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2008

# RPTV



### Mayor's Community Safety Award!

On December 6th, the Mayor's Community Safety Award was presented to 5 community organizations and groups that work with youth around safety in the Greater Toronto Area. We are pleased to announce that Regent Park TV (RPTV) was proudly one of the winners!

RPTV is an on-line web TV produced by the Regent Park Focus. RPTV youth reporter and editor Saeema accepted the award on behalf of all the RPTV participants and staff.

The award was presented by Mayor David Miller, City TV journalist Dwight Drummond, City Councilor Pam McConnell and Deputy Award Chief Keith Forde. Congratulations RPTV! More about RPTV on page 2.

## MAGAZINE CATCH DA FLAVA Hits The Stands!

The newest issue of Catch da Flava Magazine is now available for your reading pleasure. Some of our more loyal fans may have noticed that this issue we have stepped up our game by going glossy. And guess what? It's still free! The December-January issue of Catch da Flava magazine features a conversation with Josephine Grey, a St Jamestown public housing resident who has launched a class action lawsuit against the city and Toronto Community Housing for unresolved maintenance problems. That's not all. Did you know that cocaine drug dealing is not what it is "Cracked" up to be?? According to a study of the cocaine finances of large U.S gangs, most street drug dealers are lucky if they can make minimum wage! Read all about it and lots more in this issue of Catch da Flava magazine. Remember Catch da Flava accepts submissions so all you young folks out there start writing and submit your work to [focusflava@gmail.com](mailto:focusflava@gmail.com).



# RPTV

## IN PRODUCTION!

Focus' award winning program RPTV is back and its bigger and better than before. Looking back to the month of December 2007, RPTV has successfully completed 2 video projects:

**MARCH AGAINST VIOLENCE** highlights Regent Park's community marching with the message of peace not violence. **FAMILY NIGHT** illustrates how diverse the Park is with families showing and offering goods from their home countries. RPTV investigates this unique night held at the Nelson Mandela Park Public School.

At the moment RPTV is producing another short video on the Regent Park redevelopment and a piece on Drug Awareness week. Saeema and Isaac are also busy learning to edit videos.

Site Address: [www.regentpark.tv](http://www.regentpark.tv)



## GIRLS NIGHT OUT!



### DIVA GIRLS GROUP

For the past two weeks the girls in the Diva program have been working with artist Laura Reins Boraau from the Art Gallery of Ontario on "Potato divas" (see picture below). This week the Divas are going to be participating in a goal setting workshop.

The Divas provide pre-teen girls with the opportunity to meet afterschool every Thursday to engage in fun learning activities; movies, discussions and trips.

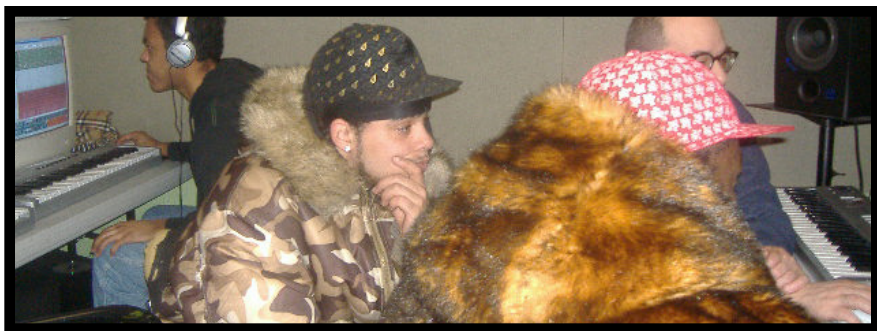


# THE REGENT PARK FOCUS O'CONNOR Partnership

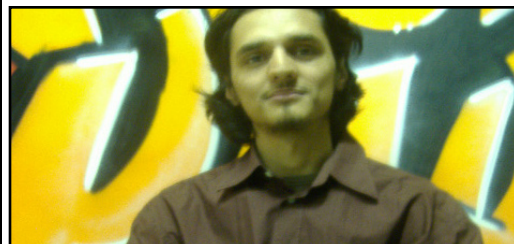
The Regent Park Focus - O'Connor partnership provides out of work and out of school youth a chance to give back to their community and gain some employable skills at the same time. Our partnership with them comes in the form of media journalism training. This session we have a group of six enthusiastic youth who will be learning how to produce videos, radio programs and magazine articles, all from the ground up.

After only four weeks, the youth have grasped the basic concepts of video production - equipment set-up, angles, and interview skills - and some are even in the post production training, learning the ins and outs of professional editing. The videos they're working on will explore an issue the participants are passionate about.

We've also already had several guests – including documentary director Craig Goodwill, who have come in to talk to the group and answer questions they have about the video industry or how to get funding for projects they may want to do after they finish the program. In the future we plan on taking them to video production and editing studios to help them make the connections they'll need if they want to pursue a career in video making. **Are you a youth who is out of school and out of work? Come find out about the Employment Training program.**



# NEW MEMBER



## PARTICIPANT OF THE MONTH!!

Hi All!

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Sunny Khan and I have been around Regent Park Focus and Regent Park area for a long time. So I have decided to join the Regent Park Focus Advisory. I intend to bring ideas that would improve the community. With the Regent Park redevelopment our community will soon reach a level of prosperity never seen before and I am proud to be able to contribute by being part of the Focus Advisory. I am excited to be part of a centre that is fun to come to. I hope to see you people at the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Center.

### Contact Information

Regent Park Focus Youth Media  
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## NEW WEBSITE CLUB



Looking to make a web site yourself but don't have the right skills?

Come to Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Center to learn how to make a web site with HTML. It starts on February 11th, 2008 and happens every Monday from 3:45PM to 5:00PM for youth 11-14. The new program is going to be run by Fahim Mohammed our new Communications Coordinator.

Youth will learn how to make a website with HTML and other advanced coding. They will also be working with Adobe Dreamweaver and Photoshop to learn the basics of making graphics for their websites.



## UNDERGROUND Music Studio RoCKS!



If you took a stroll through Regent Park on a Tuesday or Thursday at 5:30 amongst the noise of children playing you would hear the prolific sounds coming from the 'base-ment' aka Regent Focus. This is the place for Toronto's upcoming artists come to hone their God given talents into a sound that will soon be saturating the airwaves worldwide. This is a place for the musically inclined and those who want to learn for the love of it. Artists can be as young as ten, creating original music including lyrics, beats and the melody. All four stations in the studio are filled to capacity, each artist downloading their creative juices into every bar while adding a syncopated bopping head the universal sign of approval.

Currently there are three sessions weekly, one on Tuesday and two on Thursdays, with plans to add more as demand is greater than available space. Youth are given a chance to learn about composing & recording with computers, using tools & software of professional quality, working with Artists-In-Residence Mathew, Rick and Phil. Interested in learning how to create your own beats drop by the Regent Park Focus and register for the Underground Music Studio Program.