



## REGENT PARK FOCUS YOUTH MEDIA ARTS CENTRE FALL NEWSLETTER - 2012

The Buzz is a quarterly newsletter devoted to informing the broader community about the activities of the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. This issue covers the period of September 1st, 2012 to November 30th, 2012. Previous issues of the Buzz are available for downloading at [www.regentparkfocus.com](http://www.regentparkfocus.com)

### Welcome Back

It's that time of year again... a time of chillier evenings and homework assignments. But don't worry, not all is doom and gloom! Please check in with us to hear about all the new program offerings this year. As always, it's 100% free to learn about media arts at Regent Park Focus! Contact details are below.

### Nuit Blanche 2012

On September 29th, as an alternative to the renowned 'Last Friday' event, Regent Park Focus hosted a Nuit Blanche special at the Daniel's Spectrum. Our mission to bring the community a hyped-up, free Nuit Blanche musical show was a solid gold success! The turn-out was huge and it was great to be included on the Nuit Blanche trail as part of Artscape's "Our Lights Are On" project.

The event's musical artists delivered solid performances in various genres including: Pop/Rock tunes, Punjabi dance, Reggae/Ska, Afro-Cuban drumming, and Bengali electronica. The performers/bands shared inspiring messages through their music with lyrics calling for social justice and an end to violence.

This event would not have been possible without the generous help of The Daniels Corporation, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Toronto Argonauts, and Rainbow Cinemas.



## Live Green and Prosper

Do inner city youth care about the environment? You bet they do! Regent Park Focus is employing its media arts skills to design an innovative environmental campaign. To help in the development of these resources we have teamed up with several amazing partners including Environmental Defence Canada, Environmental Services Group, and Toronto Public Health. Keep your eyes peeled in 2013 for when we unveil the resulting green positive TV, radio, and graphic art resources!

## Role Models in the House! – The Diva Girls and Boyz to Men

Regent Park Focus was successful in its pursuit of an OAC grant to help with strategic planning. The Ontario Arts Council has been a supportive funder of Focus for several years. We look forward to using this grant to map out a revised 5 year gameplan. This way, we can more easily get where we need to go!

## Are you a Diva?

The Diva Girls program is alive and well! In addition to weekly media arts practice and cultural analysis, participants generated an important discussion recently about the qualities of positive role models. The girls spoke about people in their lives who have encouraged them through tough times. An immense amount of gratitude was expressed as the girls shared stories about their mentors and heroines. In turn, Regent Park Focus thanks all the parents, siblings, and other community members who support and inspire our youth each day – you matter!

Boyz to Men, our young men's after-school program with similar media literacy aims as The Divas, also described their role models through a fun poster creation activity. Sometimes it takes courage to talk about what matters most and it was great to see the boys respectfully listen to their peers' presentations. Shout-out to Angela Olay of Achieve Fitness. She led the Boyz to Men program on an amazing four week fitness challenge. We look forward to continuing the partnership in the future.



## Harvest Festival – Mobile Media Bike Lab

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## Radio Regent Presents A Grammy-Winner Jam

Last Friday is over and The Jam has begun! Similar to Last Fridays, The Jam is a monthly performance event of music, spoken word and dance. Since many of our past Last Friday performers were guests on Radio Regent (an internet radio station of the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Centre), The Jam will be promoted as part of the Radio Regent program.

On October 26, 2012, Regent Park Focus held its first monthly community event of Radio Regent's The Jam. The Jam had a great inauguration because Grammy award-winning artist Nelly Furtado performed along with some great local talent! Afterwards, Nelly welcomed youth to take photographs with her. You can check out more details on [www.radioregent.com](http://www.radioregent.com). Have an idea for a radio show?

Would you like to host a radio program on Radio Regent ([www.radioregent.com](http://www.radioregent.com))? If so, please contact us at [regentparkfocus@gmail.com](mailto:regentparkfocus@gmail.com) for an application form — we would love to hear your show ideas!



## Regent Park Community News

Imagine if every community had its own newscast featuring all the happenings of their community. Residents would be much better informed – and empowered. That’s the inspiration for Regent Park TV’s latest project – Regent Park Community News. Regent Park TV provides young people with opportunities to learn how to film and produce videos. This past summer youth in the program began working on producing a news show about the happenings of Regent Park. This project has continued into the fall with the release of two news segments. Segment 4 features information about the Reel World Film Festival, Show Love Community Event and the importance of community gardens. Segment 5 features news about Nuit Blanche and the opening of the Paint Box Bistro. If you haven’t done so already, check out Regent Park Community News on:

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



## Updates

Don’t forget to check out our event and activities blog online at: <http://regentparkfocus.blogspot.com>

Also, if you would like to host a radio program please contact us at: [regentparkfocus@gmail.com](mailto:regentparkfocus@gmail.com) for an application form – we would love to hear your ideas!

## About Regent Park Focus

Established in 1990, Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre (Regent Park Focus) is a not-for-profit organization located in Regent Park, Toronto. Regent Park Focus is motivated by the belief that community arts and participatory media practices play a vital role in building and sustaining healthy communities. Regent Park Focus seeks to increase civic engagement and inspire positive change by giving youth the tools and support to create artistic works and media productions. Youth are encouraged to work collectively to develop resources that explore issues of relevance to them and their communities. These resources, along with the process of creating them, increase personal well-being, contribute to community health and address systemic barriers to equitable social participation.



**Regent Park Focus is funded by:**

**The Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council and Rogers Communications.**



## ***Did You Know?***

Did you know that **1,677** people took part in program activities offered by Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre during the Fall 2012 season?

Or that Regent Park Focus conducted presentations to **120** people and received **8,482** website visitors during this same period?

**We're still busy!**

