



29

YEARS OF

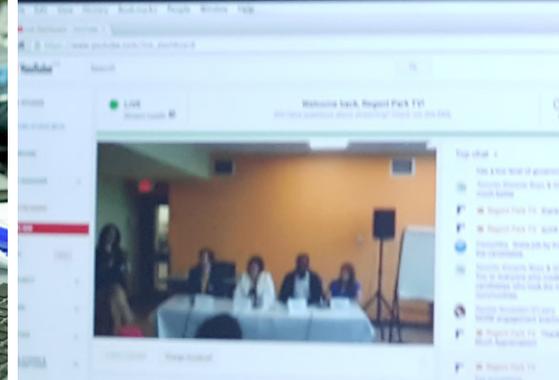
Broadcasting

REGENT PARK

REGENT PARK FOCUS
MEDIA ARTS CENTRE

ANNUAL
REPORT

For the year
Beginning April 1, 2018
to March 31, 2019



Mission Statement

Regent Park Focus is a not-for-profit organization that was established in 1990 to counter negative stereotypes about the Regent Park community and provide interventions to high risk youth living in the area.

We are motivated by the belief that participatory media practices can play a vital role in addressing local needs and development priorities, as well as support the work of building and sustaining healthy communities.

Today Regent Park Focus serves as a community learning centre for new media, digital arts, and radio & television broadcasting. We provide a community facility dedicated to the training and mentorship of young people and the engagement of community members of all ages.

Regent Park Focus Media Arts Centre is committed to:

- The development of best practices in training, education, and engagement of young people in new media, radio and television broadcast arts.
- The creation and broadcast of media content that is relevant to the information needs, interests, and health of young people as well as the broader society.
- Building social cohesion by using digital and broadcast mediums to regularly profile the neighbourhood's cultural life and provide community members with opportunities to learn about each other, voice their experiences, share their stories, and explore issues of relevance.
- Providing collectives, community agencies, and residents of the City of Toronto with opportunities to access and participate in media broadcasting.



Message from the President

On the Cusp of Change. Though we may take diverse paths, hail from different places, speak multiplicity of languages, and find comfort in a variety of cuisines, one common factor is that from time to time we all find ourselves standing at a precipice of change wondering whether to make the leap. Five years ago, the Board of Directors of Regent Park Focus Media Arts Centre (FOCUS) decided to make such a leap. The community of Regent Park was changing, all the youth, whom we were tasked to serve, were also changing, and moreover, the world rapidly was changing all around us. We sought to transform Regent Park Focus Media Arts Centre from a community health & media organization focused on serving the youth into Focus Media Arts Centre a community media hub.

With a strong mandate from our community and stakeholders, the Board of Directors, in concert with our Executive Director and dedicated staff, have been in the process of repositioning Focus Media Arts Centre (FOCUS) as a multi-site, multimedia service hub for marginalized individuals and community groups residing across the Toronto GTA. To that end we revised our mission statement: Empowering Individuals and Communities to Tell Their Own Stories.

Over the past year the following steps are in progress: legal name change; the letters of patent have been changed to better reflect the organization's activities as a not-for-profit arts organization; application for charitable status designation; developing marketing and branding strategy that supports the new direction as an intergenerational community media hub; actively seeking above ground space that would make



Cyrus Sundar Singh

FOCUS more publicly accessible and visible; building equitable relationships with other communities with the goal of replicating its success by developing sustainable media hubs in other marginalized communities.

In spite of some ongoing challenges, the transformation has been largely successful. Among its successes, FOCUS currently operates: Radio Regent; RPTV (Regent Park TV); Diva Girls Media Group; New Media and Indie Game Design Lab; Underground Music Recording Studio Program; along with a healthy presence on the web and social media. As the FOCUS community speaks in over 22 languages with people hailing from as many countries and cultures, it is imperative that we maintain its diverse voices, ensure that everyone has equitable access, and that all voices are heard.

As we continue our growth into the next decade, I sincerely thank the following great humans for their continued support, understanding and dedication: Adonis Huggins; Erdine Hope; Natalie Alcoba; Emma-Rose Bonanno; Hani Afrah; James Gnani; Manuel Gitterman; Paul Weitzmann; and Wallo Plummer.

Message from the Director

2019 – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

It's that time of the year again when we collectively look back upon the past twelve months and reflect upon what I call, "the good, the bad and the ugly". We do this not only to celebrate our achievements but also to learn from our mistakes so that we can grow stronger as an organization. That said, make no mistake about it, 2019 was a good year for the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre (FOCUS).

The Good - In 2019 we experienced growth in almost every program area.

Radio Regent added more programmers and radio shows to the schedule and has a growing listenership. Regent Park TV produced more shows than in previous years. The music studio experienced higher use this year than previously. The Divas Media Group program expanded to two evenings a week, and a second Divas program was created for younger girls. In numbers alone, FOCUS is growing.

Now quantity is important, but it's not everything. When I reflect upon the nature of our work, I am also blown away by the quality of Regent Park Focus programs and activities. One only has to look at the Divas Media Group's partnership with U of T's Department of Urban Studies resulting in a wonderful exhibition of critical work presented at the Pam McConnel Aquatic Centre towards the end of the year. Same with the Little Divas gallery showcase. Another amazing program was the Our Canadian Stories project which resulted in the making of 17 video projects with youth on the theme of identity. I would also be remiss not to mention the lively, vocal and passionate members of the Catch da Flava youth radio or the insightful voices of the Powerful by Nature radio collective of young moms from Jessies Centre for Teens. The diversity and quality of programming on Radio Regent contributes to the uniqueness of our station. These are just a few examples of excellent programming at work at the Centre.

Now for the bad. After an exciting summer program, in which young people engaged in a range of different and fun activities related to gaming, app design and interactive storytelling projects, the New Media Program failed to experience the same kind of upwards trajectory in attendance that I was expecting. In fact, let's be



Adonis Huggins

frank, attendance for our fall and winter New Media program was dismal. This of course is disappointing considering the growing interest of gaming design among young people. Fortunately, it has not tempered our desire to transform our media hub into a best practice site for learning game design! It just means we have to try harder.

This brings us to the ugly. For the first time in recent history, Regent Park Focus Media Arts Centre experienced an operating deficit. The last time in my memory that such an event occurred was in 2009. It would be easy to say that along with a growth in programming one should expect a corresponding growth in staffing hours and expenses. The reality is that Regent Park Focus staff have always managed to do more while staying within our shoe string budget...so what happened????

Well you don't have to be a forensic detective to find out. While our operating costs did in fact rise, the real culprit behind the deficit is that the organization has not been able to adjust to the end of our \$40,000 multi-year donation support that Rogers used to provide yearly. After many years of this support, the organization just counted on these funds to be there and was hoping that the donation partnership would be renewed. But in the words of the Rolling Stones, "You can't always get what you Want!"

Next year will be even more challenging as several other multi-year project grants will come to an end. Luckily Focus has a surplus to deal with financially challenging years like 2019, but it's clear that as an organization we will have to do better in this regard. The good news is that we are working on and "When you try sometimes, you get what you Need!"

CORE PROGRAMS



REGENT PARK TV (RPTV)

is a 24-hour closed-circuit television station that is programmed and operated by the Regent Park Focus Media Arts Centre. The station began broadcasting in May 2013, and it is accessible to Regent Park households on Rogers Cable 991 and to the general public on the Regent Park TV YouTube Channel.

RPTV produces content in a variety of formats including animation, news shows, documentaries, PSAs, talk shows, dramas and music videos.

Youth participants are taught a variety of skills including researching, interviewing, script development, storyboarding, studio camera operations, lighting control, directing, switchboard operating and digital editing.

RADIO REGENT

is a 24-hour internet radio station that is operated by Regent Park Focus and is publicly accessible on the internet and mobile devices. The station began broadcasting on January 1, 2012, and it serves as an alternative to mainstream commercial radio. Radio Regent provides the general public with free access to radio broadcasting and features a diverse array of original programming including music, spoken word, and news shows with an emphasis on youth and multi-cultural programming, social justice, and promoting local artists. Radio Regent has trusted listeners from 143 countries around the world and reaches a live audience of 4,000 monthly.



DIVA GIRLS MEDIA GROUP

is a weekly after-school program for cultural diverse young women ages 13-17 years. The program provides an opportunity for young women to meet and engage in a variety of media production and healthy learning activities related to identity, self-esteem, health, and social justice.

NEW MEDIA AND INDIE GAME DESIGN LAB

The New Media & Indie Game Lab is a creative studio that is dedicated to multidisciplinary digital arts including graphic design, digital photography and photoshop, blogging, audio editing, 3D rendering, video editing, game design and more. The lab is supported by workshop instructors and staff. The lab is open daily to co-op students, interns and volunteers to work on their projects.

UNDERGROUND MUSIC RECORDING STUDIO PROGRAM

The Underground Music Recording Studio Program provides local youth with the opportunity to gain skills and experience in creating, mixing and mastering their own recorded materials. Participants create lyrics and learn from industry professionals in an on-site recording studio and an isolated sound booth.



MEMBERS STATS

TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERS - 210

118	92
MALES	FEMALES

AGE OF MEMBERS

9	66	55	80
12 - 15	16 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 30

MEMBER'S ACADEMIC STATUS

123	87
STUDENTS	NON STUDENTS

MEMBERS EMPLOYMENT STATUS

17	45	08
EMPLOYED FULL-TIME	EMPLOYED PART-TIME	BETWEEN JOBS
131	08	01
UNEMPLOYED	DID NOT RESPOND	SELF EMPLOYED

RADIO STATS

37	48	17
RADIO SHOWS	RADIO HOSTS	FEMALE
31	3,112	618
MALE	RADIO PROGRAMMERS HOURS	RADIO PROGRAMMERS GUEST HOURS

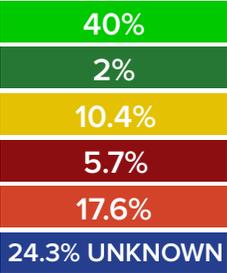
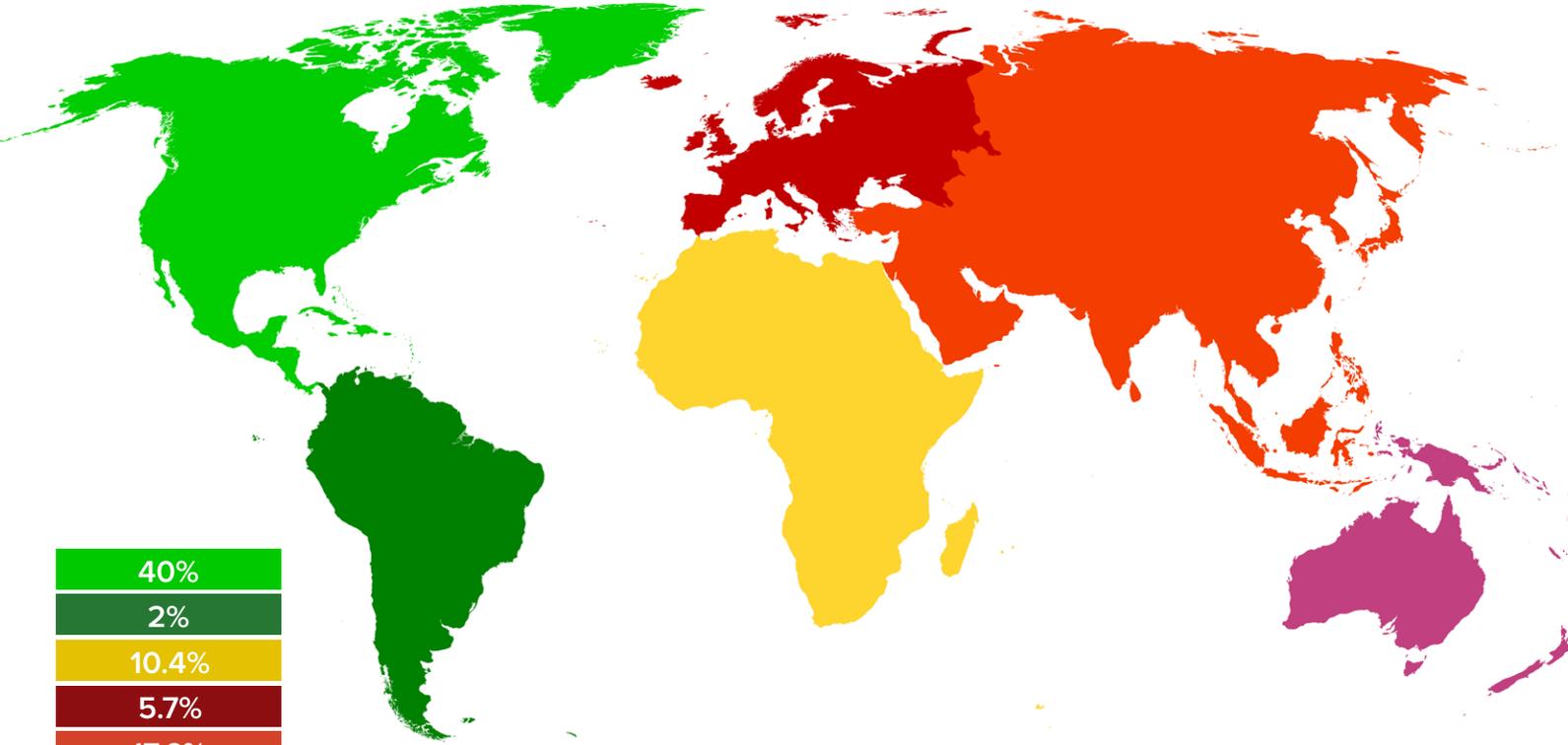
VOLUNTEER STATS (NUMBERS)

73	19	6
YOUTH	PLACEMENT STUDENTS	ADULTS

VOLUNTEER STATS (HOURS)

2,778	211	2,389
PLACEMENT STUDENTS	ADULTS	YOUTH

MEMBERS' CULTURAL BACKGROUND



TOP 3 ETHNO-RACIAL COMMUNITIES SERVED

CARIBBEAN SOMALIA BENGALI

WE SPEAK 22+ LANGUAGES



Swahili
 Latino
 Lous
 Tibetan
 Punjabi
 Amharic
 Bengali
 Bosnian
 English
 French

Tangalog
 Tigrinya
 Urdu
 Uzbek
 Vietnamese
 Hindi
 Mandarin
 Rutooda
 Somali
 Spanish

TOTAL WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

AS OF MARCH 31, 2019 + % OF INCREASE FOR 2018/.2019 YEAR.



OUTREACH



2018 - 2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (RADIO REGENT)



Catch da Flava

is a long-running, weekly youth show available on Radio Regent. Airing live on Tuesdays at 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., and available as a podcast, the show is hosted by youth and dedicated to promoting community health and resiliency through conversations with young people and experts about sexual health, mental health, substance misuse/abuse, self-esteem, social identity and anti-oppression. The 2019 Catch da Flava radio was supported by Toronto Urban Health Fund.

Powerful by Nature

is a youth radio show led by participants of Jessie's Centre for Teens' Community Education Program (CEP). Participants share their experiences and provide a fresh perspective on what it's like to be a young parent, and challenges and choices related to schools, relationships, alcohol and drugs, sex, family life and much more! Both Catch da Flava radio and Powerful by Nature is supported by the Toronto Urban Health Fund.



Francophone Radio

As a follow up to last year's African Francophone Radio, in 2019, Radio Regent launched the French Show! The French Show!, is a weekly Francophone radio show hosted by Geraldine Eve. The show is devoted to anything French or as Geraldine likes to put it...anything Franco! Geraldine provides a platform for all Francophones to talk about their work and share their politics, culture, art and music. Tune in every Thursday from 5pm to 6 pm.



G.H.E.T.T.O Stories: Getting Higher Education to Teach Others is an online radio show featuring inspiring stories of triumph and adversity, highlighting little known people who are making a difference in the lives of others as well as their communities. In this groundbreaking talk show producer/host, Elaine Robinson, delves deep into the issues of life affecting us all, irrespective of race, creed, religion, nationality and orientation. G.H.E.T.T.O aims is to re-define the word 'ghetto', to showcase talented, knowledgeable individuals from unexpected places, overcoming insurmountable odds as well as to provide a platform for personal storytelling that inspires people to community activism and participation. Tune in every Saturday from 8 pm to 9 pm.

BLACK WELLNESS

Black Wellness: Recognizing the unique set of circumstances faced by the African Diaspora such as anti-black racism, discrimination, inequality, abuse, profiling, stereotyping and marginalization, Black Wellness is an online radio show providing a voice for the community, sharing proven research and information and will feature doctors and experts in various disciplines to discuss current issues and critical solutions towards better physical and mental wellness. Hosted by Giselle Wilson, Black Wellness advocates for equality, equal access, higher standard care as well as culturally appropriate, holistic exercise, nutrition and mental fitness. Tune in every Saturday from 7-8 pm.



Rise Up Radio: Hosted by Greg Loon, Rise Up Radio is a show that plays alternative, punk, hip hop music by Indigenous/Native artists/musicians. The show also features interviews with musicians, actors or anyone who is promoting indigenous culture and events. Immerse yourself with the beat and vibe of alternative and hip hop sound. Rise Up Radio is always fresh, it's always hip, it's always Indigenous/Native American. Tune in every Sunday, from 12-2pm.



Tasttlig: Tasttlig is a radio show dedicated to Poverty Reduction using food as a catalyst for social and economic change among Canada's growing Immigrants. Hosted by Nabil Mensah, Tasttlig aims to remove barriers for Economic Access to New Comer Canadians interested in getting into hospitality Industry as Caterers, Cooks or Chefs. Tune in every Sunday from 8pm to 9 pm.



New Perspective: Hosted and produced by prominent Ethiopian journalists and writers; Sosina Ashenafi and Gezahegn Mekonnen, this vibrant community based show features the music, news and culture of Ethiopians, Eritreans and members of the African Diaspora in the GTA and across the globe. Tune in every Sunday from 4 pm to 6 pm.



Radio Regents News & Views: Produced by FOCUS staff members, Radio Regent News and Views is a weekly, hour-long news program for those who want to get behind the headlines, for analysis, interviews and alternative perspectives from a decidedly progressive point of view. Each week, host David Wall and the news team deliver headlines, special documentaries and discussions, exploring important stories, internationally, regionally and locally. Tune in every Friday from 2pm to 3 pm.

2018 - 2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (REGENT PARK TV)

MUSIC RECORDING CLASSES at REGENT PARK FOCUS

Regent Park Focus is excited to launch the winter 2019 FREE Music Recording Program. Students of all levels of experience will learn how to use Logic X software inside Regent Park Focus' pro audio studio to compose and record their own songs.

If Music is your passion and you want to be part of the program, please contact David Wall: david@regentparkfocus.com or regentparkfocus@gmail.com

or Call: 416 863 1074

LIMITED
SPACE

BOOK
TODAY

Focus Music Recording Program: Over the 2019 year, FOCUS ran weekly music recording workshops engaging a variety of young people, including participants of the DIVAS Media Group and young people involved in the criminal justice system through a partnership with John Howard Society-Toronto (JHST). Guided by John ?, an accomplished music educator and coordinator of the program, youth participants utilized the studio's to make beats, learn song composition, and produce music reflecting their life experiences. Thanks to Toronto Urban Health Fund for its support of this project.



Our Canadian Stories: In 2018, FOCUS partnered with Scadding Court Community Centre to engage 17 youth from Regent Park and Alexandra Park to create a school resource featuring 17 digital stories. Completed in spring of 2019, the resource is now used in classrooms as part of a toolkit to promote and encourage dialogue and critical thought around intersectional identities. Thank you to the Canada Ministry of Heritage for funding this project.

The Divas Media Program: The DIVA Girls' Media Program provides culturally diverse young women, ages 13 to 17 years, with weekly after-school activities to express their identities and experiences through art making. This year's program, funded through the Canadian Women Foundation, was coordinated by Amna Quaid Azam and Pat Whitaker, and the girls participated in many issue based arts activities involving artists. In the January of 2019, the DIVAS teamed up University of Toronto Urban Studies Students to collaborate on a three-month project aimed at creating media projects centred around the revitalization of Regent Park. The completed project featured a zine, a photo exhibition, a historical map, an audio podcast on youth perspectives of their community, and a video on resident lack of access to newly built amenities (such as swimming lessons at the Aquatic Centre). The completed works was presented to the community at a launch held on April 8, 2019 at the Pam McConnell Aquatic Centre. A documentary of the project along with the video on Public Spaces is available for viewing on Regent Park TV. Congratulations Divas!!



Meet Your Neighborhood Police: In 2019, FOCUS partnered with 51 Division of Toronto Police Services to produce six episodes of a television series promoting awareness of the work and officers involved in community policing in Regent Park. Thank you to the Law Foundation of Ontario for funding this series.



Stories from the African Diaspora: Murphy Brown, a long-time activist/Radio Regent show host / community member, joined Regent Park TV in producing an animated, story- telling television series about African culture. Centre around Anansi the trickster, a West African God who often takes the shape of a spider, the series features five episodes hosted by Murphy.



2018 - 2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (REGENT PARK TV)



Politalks: Politalks is an ongoing TV series of Regent Park TV dedicated to keeping residents informed of the activities and views of elected representatives at all levels of government, as well as filming all-candidates meetings and interviewing election candidates. This year's interviewees included: MP Bill Morneau, School Trustee Chris Moise, Fos Ashkir, Walied Khogali Ali, George Smitherman, Megann Willson, MPP Suze Morrison, City Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and many others.



Regent Park: The Past, Present and Future

The aim of this show is to engage past and present residents of Regent Park into sharing their memories and experiences of living in Regent Park and their thoughts about the changing nature of neighbourhood. Among the residents that we interviewed this year was Neil Clark, Rona Bailey and Lisa Taylor.



Regent Park TV News: is dedicated to keeping residents informed about the going-on's of their neighbourhood. In 2019 Regent Park TV news crew covered many events and activities in the neighbourhood. Among the featured stories was: Sunday in the Park Festival, the Moss Park Festival, the fire at the Daniels Spectrum, Children's program at Art Heart, Taste of Regent Festival, Food and Culture in Regent Park, Rivers of Hope- toolkit on Islamophobic Violence, the Square Circle Program, the Eid Al-Adha Islamic Festival, the Show Love Café and the tragic the death of Mackai Steven Bishop-Jackson.

Little Divas Program: In addition to the older Divas Media Group, Focus collaborated with St. Bartholomew's Children Centre to run a weekly after-school arts program for young girls, ages 8 to 12 years of age. This program was facilitated by the Canvas Arts Action Project and featured a wide variety of arts activities including dance and song making. An end of the year exhibition of their work was held in June of 2019 at the FOCUS. Thank you to the Canadian Women's Foundation for supporting the program.



Regent Park Focus Summer Program: Each summer, during the months of July and August, FOCUS hosts a FREE 8-week daily summer media arts program for young people ages 14 and up. In total 27 youth registered in the 2019 summer program. The program consisted of many different experiential learning workshops revolving around the production of weekly radio shows, audio podcasting, video production and app design. As part of the App design program - each participant designed and created their own app. As part of the video program, youth worked in groups to create an interactive video in which viewers could select different story paths and endings. Participants also had an opportunity to produce an individual video project of their own choosing. One notable production was a mistaken identity horror film called, The Patient. Matthew Corneau, a 16-year-old youth participant of the program, produced the film. The 2019 summer program also involved the participation of 6 Palestinian and 6 Israeli youth from an organization called Heart to Heart. These youth worked on the production of short videos promoting peace and understanding between the two cultures. Thank you to Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council and Canada Summer Jobs for funding this project.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

CORE STAFF



Adonis Huggins
Executive Director



Dimitrije Martinovic
TV Production Coord



Tyrone M-Wilson
IT Support Coord



Pat Whittaker
Membership & Facility Coord



Amil Delic
Radio Regent Support Coord



Kerry Ambrose
Partnership Coord

BOARD MEMBERS

1. Cyrus Sundar-Singh - President
2. Erdine Hope
3. Paul Weitzmann - Secretary
4. Manuel Gitterman – Treasurer
5. Natalie Alcoba
6. Emma Bonanno
7. Wayne (Wallo) Plummer
8. Adonis Huggins
9. James Gnani
10. Hani Afrah

CONTRACTED STAFF

1. Judy Pham
2. William Hunter
3. Kiandokht Eslami
4. Travis Acheampong
5. Mohammad Reza Nawruzi
6. Amna Azam
7. Jude Ifesieh
8. Dawit Tibebe

SUMMER STAFF

1. Shian Grace
2. Diamond Bailey
3. Sean Williams
4. Nate Ramacciotti-Gurarie
5. Valentina Mendoza Sotelo
6. Kaylin Lopes
7. Matthew Corneau
8. Erica Garcia
9. Levi Linton
10. Divine Bailey
11. Johnathan Mavrogiannis

PLACEMENT STUDENTS

1. Kaleb Marr
2. Brandon Berry
3. Christina Johnson
4. Erica Garcia
5. Erika Kakrah
6. Jaden Victorino
7. Amna Azam
8. Angelica Santana
9. Jessica Ramdhanie
10. Meredith Charko
11. Melodie MacLennan
12. David Wall
13. Jenna Borisevich
14. Xavier Ricketts
15. Alessia Scelsa
16. Mira DiMarco
17. Stephanie Oliveira
18. Andy Xu
19. Shantel Clinton

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

1. Gisela Torres
2. Jason Clarke
3. Maira Rodriguez
4. Ateif Abdoun

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

For the past 12 months (April 01, 2018 - March 31, 2019)

REVENUE	2019	2018
Corporate and Business Grants.....	\$30,000	\$30,000
Foundations and Trust Grants.....	\$50,153	\$98,811
Non-Profit Organizations.....	\$30,426	\$56,805
Self Generating Income.....	\$18,319	\$18,751
Federal Government Grants.....	\$40,476	\$46,486
Provincial Government Grants.....	\$71,432	\$117,348
Municipal Government Grants.....	\$125,671	\$102,004
Individual/ Business Contributions.....	\$294	\$23,070
Total Revenue.....	\$336,771	\$493,275

EXPENDITURES		
Equipment maintenance and purchases.....	\$966	\$ 2,587
General Supplies.....	\$13,566	\$16,783
Insurance.....	\$4,712	\$3,402
Office supplies.....	\$982	\$1,988
Printing.....	\$611	\$2,001
Professional Fees	\$21,986	\$33,240
Rent (38 Regent St).....	\$42,072	\$44,763
Rent (Administrative office)	\$17,925	\$17,848
Salary and Benefits	\$289,013	\$254,866
Service Contracts	\$6,757	\$7,415
Telephone.....	\$6,724	\$6,476
Travel.....	\$1,260	\$1,192
Total.....	\$406,574	\$392,561
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures.....	\$69,803	\$100,714

YEAR END		
Net assets - Beginning of year.....	\$201,579	\$100,865
Deficiency of revenue over expenditures	\$69,803	\$100,714
Net assets - End of year	\$131,776	\$201,579

GENEROUS DONORS

- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Law Foundation of Ontario
- Dixon Hall - Toronto Foundation
- Mozilla Foundation
- CIRA Foundation
- Kiwanis Club Centennial Grant
- YMWCA
- Daniels Corporation
- Koskie Minsky LLP
- Department of Justice Canada
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Cultural Tourism Culture and Sports -Ontario 150 Partnership
- Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Services
- Ontario Arts Council
- Ontario Ministry of Francophone Affairs
- Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (Multicultural Capacity Grant)
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Arts Council
- Department of Justice
- Ministry of Francophone Affairs
- Service Canada
- SOCAN
- Toronto Foundation



TORONTO
ARTS
COUNCIL

