

THE BUZZ

DETECTIVE JONES

AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING BUILDING

REGENT PARK FOCUS
YOUTH MEDIA ARTS
CENTER

08 QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
ISSUE

FIRST THERE WAS
BIKE MAN

AND THEN THERE WAS
CAPTAIN CANADA

FROM THE YOUTH
PRODUCERS OF
REGENT PARK TV
COMES

...DETECTIVE JIM JONES

In this hilarious but equally educational film, a bubbling detective named Jim Jones is called upon by the local police chief to solve the case of buildings that disappear from the community of Regent Park. The video was produced by youth involved in the 14th Annual Summer Media Arts Program. Congratulations to Reazul Mozumdar, Manjitha Perera, Dhanis Rajasegar, Tresvonne Rose-Wilson, Tajah Rose Wilson, Isaac Mbikay, Josh Reid. See more about the program Inside.



LAST FRIDAY'S



MASIA ONE PERFORMS AT THE LAST FRIDAY'S EVENT



TREVSUNNE AS CAPTAIN CANADA

Last Friday's is a monthly event held from February to June on the last Friday of the month. Sponsored by Regent Park Focus Last Fridays is an opportunity for residents and community members to socialize and be inspired by musicians, poets and storytellers from all ages and cultural backgrounds. On Friday May 30th in celebration of Asian Heritage Month Last Friday featured a variety of culturally diverse artists from the Asian community. The event was staged outside in the North Regent Park field and featured:

Inner Truth - Taiko Drummers Dojo Drummer
Northern Legs - Southern Fist Lion Dance
Impact - Indian Dancers
Masia One - a Toronto rap artist,
Sun Sun - a Toronto rap artist,
Daiki Soul - a jazz fusion band.

There were over 200 people attending the event.

CAPTAIN CANADA CELEBRATES CANADA DAY

Captain Canada and Who Cheers for Canada are videos that were created in the fall of 2007 by culturally diverse youth involved in the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Program.

Captain Canada is played by **Trevonne Rose-Wilson**, a 13 year old youth living in the Regent Park area. He is featured in five humorous short youth produced videos. The Captain Canada videos are humorous, at the same time they all explore serious issues relevant to Canadian society. Who Cheers for Canada is a video about Canadian Identity that was filmed during the FIFA-Under 20 World Cup Soccer Tournament held in Canada during the summer of 2007.

With the support of Celebrate Canada grant, the videos Captain Canada and Who Cheers for Canada came to life through a series of night time film screenings held in the Regent Park, Annex and at Harbourfront. The screenings were facilitated by staff members of Regent Park Focus using a generator, laptop, projector and a large screen.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

In celebration of Canada Day, Regent Park Focus organized a "Last Friday's" music performance event on June 27th. The event was held outdoors in the baseball field of North Regent Park. The event featured

music performances from **Start Select** and **Muhtadi and the World Drummers**. Start Select is a fusion rock band in the area. Muhtadi is mostly non-professional musicians who come together to perform and learn drumming under the mentorship of a master drummer, named Muhtadi.

Approximately 300 people attended the music performances and film screening.



ONLOOKERS WATCHING RPTV AT HARBORFRONT ON CANADA DAY

During the month of May and June Regent Park Focus partnered with Manifesto and the Pathway to Education to host Streetscape, a Luminato Festival Exhibit in Regent Park.

Over the course of 8 weeks 20 youth from Regent Park worked directly with professional artists at Focus to create artwork celebrating our community. The exhibit was held on June 11, June 13, 14 and 15. The exhibit featured 12 large photos of residents pasted to the walls of buildings of Regent Park, wall murals and street art, video projections and a digital photo exhibit at Regent Park Focus. Almost 500 people attended the four day exhibit. Congratulations to all the youth in the program.



REGENT PARK RESIDENTS ATTENDING LUMINTO



RESIDENTS WATCHING RPTV AT LUMINTO

Luminato



CATCH DA FLAVA

In June, as part of the Luminato Festival, a special issue of Catch da Flava magazine was produced showcasing the upcoming Streetscape exhibit. In addition to articles and artwork promoting the exhibit the issue featured articles on the Black Focus Schools debate, Barack Obama (a presidential candidate or movement), the history of Regent Park, our regular comic panel by Iain Kee, community events and a profile of New York photographer Jamel Shabazz. Read the issue online by visiting

www.regentparkfocus.com



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14TH ANNUAL MEDIA ARTS SUMMER PROGRAM



CELEBRATING 14 YEARS OF SUMMER ARTS PROGRAMMING

In July Regent Park Focus celebrated 14 years of providing summer arts programming to youth in Regent Park by running...yet another daily summer arts program! 35 youth participated in a variety of interactive, and fun skill development activities related to music and media arts. The program also featured site visits to Much Music, ROM, the Beaches, Science Center, Bata Shoe Museum, Movies, Fringe Festival, Bowling, the NFB, a Toronto Argonauts football game and Gallery 44 Center for Photography. Here is a brief report of the program sessions

PHOTOGRAPHY AND GRAPHIC ARTS

Six highschool aged youth participated in weekly graphic arts workshop sessions held in the Focus media lab. The 5 hour workshops were led by Heidi Overhill, a graphic arts faculty instructor at Sheridan College and our very own resident photography instructor Steve Blair. Youth in the program learned the fundamentals of photoshop and design and created their own video and cd covers. Not to be outdone, preteen participants took part in a bi-weekly digital photography workshop led by Chelle Bergen, a photography student at the Ontario College of Art and Design

(OCAD). With Steve Blair's added assistance each participant shot their own photos and took turns in the media lab to learn how to use basic elements of photoshop to digitally alter photographs of themselves.

COMIC BOOK MAKING

A weekly comic book making workshop was led by Marvin Lau a professional Marvel Comic book artist. Each participant of the summer program had the task of learning the fundamentals of illustration and using these skills to produce their own comic book panel on an issue they felt was important to them. A comic book containing their work will be released in the new year and be made available on the internet.



VIDEO PRODUCTION AND REGENT PARK TV



CAST MEMBERS POSING ON THE SET OF DETECTIVE JONES



EMANUEL TEACHING A VIDEO WORKSHOP

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Under the guidance of Regent Park Focus instructors Emmanuel Kedini, Adonis Huggins and Tyronne Maclean-Wilson, youth involved in the summer program worked together to learn how to use video cameras, write scripts and storyboards, and come up with their own film projects. In total seven videos were produced. They were St. Jamestown, Change Sir, Rain, Finders Keepers, The Drum, The Smoker, Little White Lies, The Blind Man and of course Detective Jones. All the videos were premiered in the Regent Park Film Festival and are also available on the Regent Park TV website.

REGENTPARK TV

Regent Park TV is a forum for local youth to voice their experiences, share their stories and explore issues that affect them and their community. The work is delivered in a range

of formats including interviews, debates, short dramas, documentaries, news shows, public service announcements and Super8 films.

The local stories RPTV features, allows community members to see their own lives reflected. Together youth, and their community audience, co-create meaningful media rather than just act as consumers of mainstream television. This is empowering to both producers and viewers.

Currently, Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Center is negotiating with Toronto Community Housing and local cable and Internet providers to develop Regent Park TV into a fully operational community television channel operated by young people. The redevelopment of Regent Park provides a ripe opportunity for this to happen. If you are interested in supporting this exciting initiative contact us at focusflava@gmail.com.

MUSIC STUDIO RECORDING AND DRUMMING WORKSHOPS



REGENT PARK DRUM CORP PERFORMING AT THE DELTA CHELSEA

THE UNDERGROUND MUSIC STUDIO

Bi-weekly music recording and drumming workshops were offered to all the students in the summer program. In the music recording workshops children and teens were introduced to lyrical composition and created their own music tracks in the Focus studio using computer based software. Most of the youth composed lyrics about issues that they felt were important to them and a CD compilation of their work was produced and made available to all the youth in the program. The CD is also available on the Regent Park Focus website. The Music Studio Recording program was led by professional recording artists Daniel Faraldo (aka Dan-E-O), Jamie Todd, Mathew Poularkis and Phil Ogison.

YOUTHS RECORDING VOCALS IN UNDERGROUND STUDIO BOOTH



THE REGENT PARK DRUM CORP

The Drumming workshops were led by professional drummer Roy Morency. In these sessions youth learned some basic drumming rhythms and the importance of the down beat. Towards the end of the summer, three participants performed live in front of an audience of 200 people. Regent Park Focus plans to integrate the drumming workshops into a year round program.

ARTIST DAN-E-O WITH YOUTHS IN UNDERGROUND MUSIC STUDIO

