



# **REGENT PARK FOCUS**

YOUTH MEDIA ARTS CENTRE

**Annual Report**  
**2015**

April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015





# REGENT PARK FOCUS YOUTH MEDIA ARTS CENTRE

## Mission Statement:

Established in 1990, Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre (Regent Park Focus) is a not-for-profit New Media, Radio and Television Arts Broadcast Centre that uses community arts and participatory media practices to address local needs and development priorities. We provide a community facility that is dedicated to:

- ONE:** *The development of best practices in training, education and engagement of young people and community members in new media, radio and television broadcast arts;*
- TWO:** *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;*
- THREE:** *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.*

Educationnew media  
YOUTHCOMMUNITY

## Message from the President by HAROLDENE PETERS

From the very beginning until this day, Regent Park Focus (RPF) has been providing meaningful opportunities for inner-city youth and young adults to have a voice. The need to engage young people is a desire shared by various sectors of society as we cannot adequately deliver appropriate goods or services or provide appropriate representation without their input.

Young people are often left out of the conversation when their opinion should be encouraged, heard and respected. Decisions that clearly impact their health and wellbeing are too often made without their input and as a result young people's opinions are often under represented. RPF gives young people an opportunity to share their wisdom and gives them an opportunity to be heard.

So what can be done?

Is there an effective way to address this serious communication gap?

Is there a viable resolution to Youth exclusion?

Is positive change to this dismissive disregard possible?

Yes, there is a strategic engagement approach that actually works!

Regent Radio and RPTV is a facilitator of the youth voice that provides a bridge to meaningful dialogue between young people and those who genuinely want to hear from them.

An investment in Regent Park Focus is a tangible investment made to support the inclusion and capacity of Toronto's Youth and Young Adults to take part in important dialogues that have a direct impact not only on their lives today but also upon our society's potential for prosperity in the future.



## Message from the Executive Director by ADONIS HUGGINS

2015 was a vibrant and exciting as ever with youth and adults producing numerous radio and TV shows for broadcast. One concern I have is that the number of young people participating in our programming has remained relatively unchanged. Should we be concerned about this? Is the transformation of Regent Park into a mixed income community with arts centre and new amenities impacting the organization's ability to reach out to and serve marginalized young people?

A review of our membership might offer some answers. Statistics tell us that we continue to serve high numbers of youth born outside of Canada, mostly from South Asia, the major population group residing in Regent Park. A breakdown of our membership also tells us that females continue to dominate our membership, likely because of our ongoing commitment to young women's programming. What is surprising however, is the increase in members from South East Asia, notably from China, compared to previous years. We also saw an increase in male participants and have doubled the number of members between the ages of 19 to 24 years; including a significant rise in non-student members. This might indicate that despite the redevelopment and changing demographic of the neighbourhood, Regent Park Focus continues to be an organization that serves and meets the needs of marginalized newcomers and young people living in Regent Park which has been supported through our recent recognition. Regent Park Focus was



2015's National Community Media Festival Winner for  
"Best programming strategy to reach out to marginalized audiences"

Our challenge now is to find sufficient resources to serve even more marginalized youth. Lets see what 2016 brings.



# core programs

Apr1/14 to Mar 31/15

## Regent Park TV

Regent Park Television (RPTV) is a 24hr closed circuit television station programmed and operated by Regent Park Focus. It began broadcasting on May 8, 2013. RPTV is meant to foster youth and encourage resident engagement, mentoring young people (aged 15-29); teaching television broadcasting tools and technologies that can be used in pursuit of future successes.

**NEW SKILLS LEARNED:**  
script development  
lighting controls research direction  
digital editing interviewing

## Radio Regent

Radio Regent is a broadband radio station publicly accessible on the internet, mobile devices and iTunes. It began broadcasting on January 1, 2012. It features a diverse array of original programming including music, spoken word and news shows, with emphasis on promoting local artists and providing relevant community news and information to Regent Park residents. Staff and volunteers also facilitate opportunities for mentorship, teach skills in branding and the use of social media as a communication and promotional tool, teach media literacy and provide ongoing technical education and support.

**TOPICS FOR SHOWS & BROADCASTS:**  
sexism classism & ableism racism  
discrimination spoken word LGBTQ

## Divas Young Women's Media Group

An educational and social group where young women (aged 11-15) can, in a safe and encouraging environment, learn skills to DJ and produce radio programming for Radio Regent. It also provides an opportunity for young women to explore the city's cultural gems like art galleries and museums and/or to provide a positive environment to express themselves through poetry, song and dance.



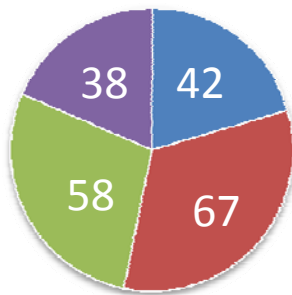
# YEAR IN REVIEW

total members

# 205

88 MALE

117 FEMALE



## AGE

■ 12-15 YRS

■ 16-19 YRS

■ 20-24 YRS

■ 24+ YRS\*

\*mostly radio programmers



## PLACE OF BIRTH:



## INTERNATIONAL

17% South Asia (Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tamil, India)

12% South East/East Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam)

6% Europe

7% Other

# 37

## VOLUNTEERS

1,795 Volunteer Hours



71% Students

29% Non-Students

# APRIL 1, 2014 to MARCH 31, 2015

# OUTREACH



## socialMEDIA

### Website Visits

Regent Park Focus	7,626
Radio Regent	11,964
RPTV	2,375
YOUTUBE Channel	15,666
YOUTUBE Subscribers	24
Regent Park Focus BLOG	1,190

### Twitter Followers

RP Focus Twitter Followers	265
Radio Regent Twitter Followers	94

Facebook Likes 218

Instagram Followers 88

**socialMEDIA contacts 39,510**

### Community Outreach:

Events, Meetings, Presentations: 4,337

Facility Visits (including radio & TV guests): 1,280

Enquiries (telephone and Internet): 7,403

**TOTAL OUTREACH: 13,020**

community  
**YOUTH**  
mentorships  
arts

**Councillor  
Kristyn  
Wong-Tam  
(Dec 5, 2014)**



Photo Credit: @kristynwongtam

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(year ending March 31, 2015)

EXPENDITURES (\$)	
Salaries & Benefits	\$225,313
General Supplies	\$ 7,848
Rent	\$ 50,775
Professional Fees	\$ 19,860
Travel	\$ 1,222
Equipment	\$ 3,477
(maintenance & purchase)	
Service Contracts	\$ 925
Office Supplies	\$ 2,655
Printing	\$ 1,009
Telephone	\$ 6,422

FINANCIAL POSITION (\$) March 31, 2015	
GRANTS & DONATIONS	\$307,604
EXPENDITURES	\$319,506
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures (deficiency)	(\$11,902)
Unrestricted Net Assets	
Beginning of Year	\$ 58,315
End of Year	\$ 46,413



# BOARD MEMBERS:

April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

**Ian ESQUIVEL** is currently Chair of the Board of the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. He has been actively involved with Focus since 2010. He was introduced to it through a fellow educator at OISE (Ontario Institute for Studies and Education). Ian works for the Toronto District School Board as a Curriculum Leader at an Alternative EcoSchool. His interests include media and in particular, music. He values the Regent Park Community for its diversity and resilience, and enjoys being part of the collaborative process of the Focus Board.

**Manuel GITTERMAN** has served as a Director of the Board for four years and treasurer for the past year. He was originally appointed to the Board as the representative for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and helped Focus transition to a fully independent community youth arts agency. Manuel is a seasoned hospital leader and an education and research administrator and program director, with a special interest in youth mental health and addictions and community development.

**Erdine HOPE** is a Mental Health worker at Sound Times Support Services, Facilitator for Toronto Writers Collective and radio host at Earcandy Radio, part of Radio Regent. She has served on the Board of Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre since 2013. She is a single mom who enjoys working with marginalized communities.

**Amanda KOSLOSKI** has been a member of the Regent Board since 2013. Her involvement with Focus began in 2008 as part of the development team working to design and coordinate the new space at 38 Regent Street. She is an urban planner who worked first hand on the Regent Park Redevelopment and has a special interest in the long term success of the community.

**Kim ORCHARD** graduated from the University of Toronto with an MA in English. Following a 6-year teaching career, Kim moved on to the Radio and Television industry. She worked at CBC and was part of the team that created, developed and programmed CBC Newsworld and was Program Director of CBC Radio for one year and Executive Director of Radio Arts and Entertainment for 10 years.

**Haroldene (Deany) PETERS** is a past recipient of the Sir James Wood Award for Community Development (2013) and has a wealth of knowledge related to the evolution of Regent Park Focus. Deany has thirty years of experience serving on not-for-profit Boards of various organizations that provide responsive programs and services. Her long term community involvement has been focused on the downtown east-end of Toronto. She is a persistent advocate for the inclusion of inner-city youth to be meaningfully involved in civic engagement.

**Wayne PLUMMER** nom de plum: Wallo Judah, a teacher at Ryerson University, has been with the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre for over 13 years in various capacities including former Chair and Co-Chair of the Board of Directors. Wallo is also one of the founding organizers of Toronto's Rastafest and has over 15 years experience in radio in the USA and Toronto.

**GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE (Community Stakeholder Position)** has established a reputation for equipping students with the skills, industry experience and credentials to pursue careers of their choice. The college offers programs from its three campuses located across the downtown core. The 2015 representative was Carrie Gaetz, Assistant to the Dean, Centre for Arts, Design & Information Technology.

**Cyrus SUNDAR-SINGH**, Vice-Chair: A brown man with a yellow guitar and a black camera, **Cyrus** is a Gemini Award-winning filmmaker, composer, singer-songwriter, and published poet. Cyrus' directorial debut Film Club is the winner of both a Gemini Award and the NFB's Reel Diversity Award. Between 24/7 video installations @ the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto and academic pursuits, he continues to push the boundaries of conventional storytelling culminating with the site-specific performative ground-breaking documentary-hybrid, *Brothers In the Kitchen*, premiering at Hot Docs Film Festival in 2016.

**Paul Xavier WEITZMANN** is the Secretary of the Board for Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. Growing up in the Regent Park community, Paul was looking for a way to give back and in 2008 was introduced to Adonis. Soon after, he became involved with the Focus Advisory and then the Board of Directors. Paul currently works for a small creative consulting firm, where he provides advice on data stewardship and data analysis for clients. His current interests include reading, bike riding whilst dodging downtown cars, poetry, and using technology to improve the human experience.



# THANK YOU:

---

## -To Our Sponsors-

City of Toronto

Employment & Social Development

Evergreen (Centre for Green Cities)

Inspirit Foundation

Limestone District School Board

Ministry of Finance (Ignite Ontario Program)

Mozilla Foundation

Ontario Arts Council

Rogers Communications

The Career Foundation

The Law Foundation of Ontario

Toronto Arts Council

Toronto Arts Foundation

Toronto Artscape Inc.

Toronto Community Foundation

---

## -To Our Staff -

### STAFF:

Adonis Huggins

Kerry Ambrose

Emmanuel Kedini

Pat Whittaker

Amil Delic

Katsufumi Fukuda

Joanne Bear

Vina Tran Vo

Tyrone MacLean-Wilson

Isaac Mbikay

Tresvonne Rose-Wilson

Ehsan Rahmanian

Ben Thich

Ricky Thich

Horace Spence

Chevy Eugene

## -To Our Volunteers-

### Adult Volunteers:

Everton Dwight

Campbell

Sara Bortolotto

Janelle Archioso

Joseph Campbell

Lily Yang

Amina Bejtic

Sheila Tran

Olivia Nashmi

Monir Mojumder

Ahsan Moghul

Jude Ifesieh

Interns (continued)...

Nicole Moore

Horace Spence

Karrisa Davis

Mellissa Hum

Jesse Wilson

Rumina Akhter

Tiphaine Lago

Britney Neagic

Ashley Pileggi

Tanbir Hague

Marilou Calce

Morteza Chasemi

Laura Stavro-  
Beauchamp

Liliy Yang

Dan Qing Cai (Phoenix)

Naatiya Prakash

Sonia S. Ralston

Chiara allen

Veronica Chang

Danielle Chervatin



# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



**ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL**  
**CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO**

an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



38 Regent Street (Lower Level)  
Toronto, ON M5A 3N7  
**416-863-1074**  
regentparkfocus@gmail.com



Regent\_Park\_Focus



@RegentParkFocus



youtube.com/user/RegentParkTV



Facebook.com/RegentParkFocus