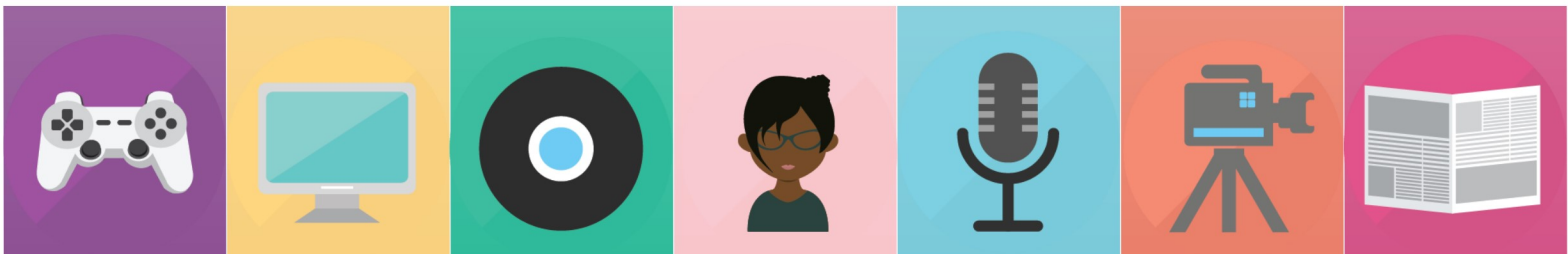


REGENT PARK FOCUS YOUTH MEDIA ARTS CENTRE



Annual Report April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



MISSION STATEMENT

Operating since 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 serves as a community learning centre for New Media and Radio and Television broadcasting and uses participatory media practices to address local needs and development priorities.

REGENT PARK FOCUS IS DEDICATED 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;

To provide collectives, community agencies, and residents of the City of Toronto with opportunities to access and participate in media broadcasting.

MESSAGE FROM IAN ESQUIVEL

president



As a volunteer and more recently, the president of the Board of Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre, I have been fortunate to meet remarkable adults and young people. Even though I have been involved with Focus for many years now, I am still excited by it and still amazed that it can manage to do so much for so many with so little.

Focus operates on a shoe string budget compared to other similar organizations. How does it do it? One part is sheer determination, one part is inspiring dedication, and one part is firm commitment. Three parts played by three important groups: our staff, our volunteers, and our supporters. Three is a symbol of strength, of power, of transformation.

In math, three is considered the first true number; in mythology, three signifies harmony, wisdom and understanding; in biology, it is the life cycle; in history, it is the past, present and future; in astrology, it is good luck. Three clearly is a winner, and while the numbers don't lie, they don't always tell the whole story, especially when it comes to community.

We are the product of our families, our friends and our mentors. When we combine together with one ambition, one goal, one vision, we are so much more than the sum of our parts. We create progress through collaboration, cooperation and conviction. Collectively, we represent change, the power to transform, to move forward.

I am a great believer in numbers, especially those that add up to success. Without a doubt, 2016/2017 has been yet another good year for Focus. Today, we can look back with pride upon our achievements over the last twelve months and feel confident about what we will be able to accomplish next year. Our numbers may be small, but our impact is huge.

MESSAGE FROM ADONIS HUGGINS

executive director



2016 was a good year! To better understand how we're doing in 2016 vs. other years, I took a comparative look at the past and present, and am excited to have drawn the following conclusions:

1. Regent Park Focus continues to be a comfortable place for newcomer youth; primarily from Bangladesh, Somalia, and the Caribbean.
2. Regent Park Focus continues to serve and be a place of belonging for both students and non-students (youth out of school) alike.
3. Regent Park Focus increases the number of resources produced annually. This past year has seen a 50% increase in the number of podcasts produced and a 33% increase in the number of video resources produced when compared to 2015/2016.
4. Regent Park Focus' RPTV YouTube audience has grown a whopping 62%!

I am also excited to announce that, throughout 2016, Regent Park Focus was involved with a wide range of innovative projects and partnerships. If you are like me, you'll agree that, as a not-for-profit organization, functioning with a small staff and budget, Regent Park Focus does a phenomenal job.

One of the reasons we have been so successful this year is because of increased efficiencies. Simply put, we are finding ways to do things better with the resources we have. Nevertheless, efficiencies will only take us so far. While we did meet our financial targets for 2016/2017, fundraising will continue to be critical over the next few years to replace obsolete equipment, and to sustain and grow our programs.

I am honoured and privileged to serve Regent Park Focus as Executive Director, but, in reviewing 2016 year's achievements, I am also humbled considering the many outstanding, inspiring, and tireless radio programmers, volunteers, youth, and coordinating staff members who keep this well-oiled machine running, day-in and day-out. I am grateful to be able to work with such a talented team of hard-working individuals and look forward to continuing the upward trends of 2016/2017 into 2018 and beyond.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

User information

2016 - 2017

3,665
volunteer
HOURS

VOLUNTEERS

9 Adults - 36 Placement/Co-op



204
members

101 **103**
male female

AGE

12yrs-15yrs: 27
16yrs-19yrs: 52
20 yrs +: 115

BORN

In Canada: 46%
Outside Canada: 54%

TOP 3 ETHNO-RACIAL COMMUNITIES SERVED

Bangladesh - Somalia - Caribbean

ACADEMIA

students: 66%
non-student: 29%
no answer: 5%

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Ending March 31, 2017

contact with users



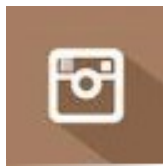
facebook.com/radioregent
facebook.com/regentparkfocus
1,247 Likes



twitter.com/Radio_Regent
twitter.com/RegentParkFocus
2,751 Followers



youtube.com/user/RegentParkTV
360 Subscribers; 543,420 Views



instagram.com/regentparkfocus/
181 Followers



radioregent.com
3,000 Tune In Followers

WEBSITE TOTAL VIEWS

REGENT PARK FOCUS	181,569
RADIO REGENT	267,048
FOCUS BLOG	58,555

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TOTAL OUTREACH: 11,012 people

Events & Outreach: 1,500 people

Enquiries (phone & internet): 8,630 people

Facility Visits: 888 people



CORE PROGRAMS

Regent Park Focus provides a number of training opportunities led by trained staff and industry professionals; however we provide the following core programs:



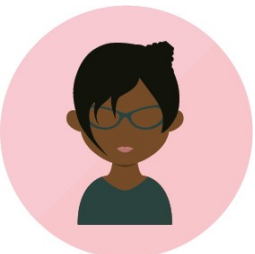
Regent Park Television (RPTV) is a 24-hour closed-circuit television station that is programmed and operated by the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. The station began broadcasting in May 2013, and RPTV is accessible to households on Rogers Cable 991 and to the general public on the Regent Park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



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 serves as an alternative to mainstream commercial radio.



Indie Game Design Club was established in 2016. It engages youth of all ages in learning the fundamentals of game design and programming.



The Divas' Young Women's Media Group has operated since 1995; it is a weekly after-school program for young women aged 11-15 years that provides an opportunity for young women to meet and engage in a variety of healthy learning and media production activities related to identity, self-esteem, health and social justice.



The **New Media Lab** is a computer lab open to youth, Monday to Friday after school. The Lab hosts various workshops including: graphic design, digital photography and photoshop, blogging, audio editing, 3D rendering, video editing and more.



Catch da Flava Youth Magazine is a print and online magazine produced by Regent Park youth to engage with the community. The opportunity empowers youth to express their views on a wide range of issues. Historically, each issue had a print run of 5,000 circulated throughout the neighbourhood, and new collaboration efforts are underway to champion these efforts. Youth writers welcome!



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.

2016-2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Minister of Labour Visits Regent Park Focus

In May, Regent Park Focus hosted an announcement by the **Honourable Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labour**, promoting youth worker safety. The event also celebrated a year-long Ministry of Labour-funded project where youth produced a series called *Youth at Work*, which resulted in 19 videos and several radio shows on workplace safety. RPF is grateful for the support of **Toronto's Institute for Work & Health (IWH)**.

Regent Park Summer Camp

Each year Regent Park Focus hosts a summer program in media arts for youth aged 14-19 years. This past summer RPF expanded the summer program to include Gaming Design and over 25 youth participated in daily gaming design workshops taught by Eddie Faria **George Brown College's Centre for Arts Design**.

The summer program also featured daily workshops in video production, facilitated by media professionals, including a story creation workshop instructed by Linda Schuyler, producer of the **CBC's Kids of Degraffi Street**.

Youth On Air, a project funded by **Telus**, with support from Ms. Jean Carter of CBC Radio, resulted in the production of a series of 16 spoken word audio shows highlighting different issues surrounding social justice.



RPF Partners with the Royal Ontario Museum

Regent Park Focus joined the **Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)** in the public screening of five tv shows about the ROM's collections and exhibits. The TV series, entitled *Youth at the ROM*, was produced by RPF through a 16-week program involving the ROM's Youth Cabinet, a group of Indigenous and non-indigenous youth between the ages of 16-20 years old. Thank you to **Toronto Public Health** for sponsoring our engagement with Indigenous communities.

Business in the Six

In September, youth involved with Radio Regent began the *Business in the Six* radio project. Sponsored by **National Bank**, the project engaged young people who produced 17 podcasts featuring interviews with business entrepreneurs about their motivations and challenges in starting and operating businesses in the hopes that their experiences will inspire others.

Media Outreach - Eastdale Collegiate Institute

RPF partnered with **Eastdale Collegiate Institute** and **Peacebuilders International**, a non-profit that offers restorative justice programs for young people, to facilitate a new 20-week media literacy and production outreach program. Sponsored by **Toronto Public Health**, the program took place weekly during the lunch period and engaged 15-20 students; the innovative collaboration resulted in the production of three videos about the school's healthy eating program and Peace Circles.

Please contact Regent Park Focus for more details of these highlights.

2016-2017 HIGHLIGHTS *continued...*

Ace Toronto Radio Collaboration

RPF continued its successful collaboration with **Ace Toronto** through a **Community One Foundation, Rainbow Grant**. Ace Toronto is an organization committed to advocating for and supporting people who want to learn about asexuality. Having previously created the "*Faces of Ace*", a series of four educational RPTV segments about asexual identity and non-binary pronouns (with dedicated support from **Planned Parenthood Toronto**), the new 2016 project, titled "Ace Radio", engaged self-identified "acers" and allies in creating content for, by, and about the asexual community.

Radio Regent TOP 50 Among Online Radio Stations

Radio Regent is an internet radio station operated by Regent Park Focus. In January, **Wondershare**, a leading multimedia software company, ranked **Radio Regent 38th in a list of top 50 recommended online radio stations** that provide news, music and talk shows. Congratulations to all the 40+ volunteer radio programmers producing shows on Radio Regent.

Leadership Role in National Media Literacy Week

The 11th annual **Media Literacy Week** ran from October 31 to November 4, 2016, RPF took a leadership role in organizing a week-long media literacy program consisting of workshops and panel discussions targeted at educators living and working in the Toronto area. The program involved educators and representatives from the **Canadian Association of Television Stations and Users (CACTUS)**, **George Brown College**, **MediaSmarts**, **MakerKids**, **CampTech**, and **Girls Crack Code**; the activities were also promoted across Canada by MediaSmarts.

Regent Park Focus Tribute - Regent Park Film Festival

As a tribute to 25 years of the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre, the 15th Annual **Regent Park Film Festival** presented a showcase of Super8 films, documentaries, music videos, dramas and comedies made between 2000 and 2015. These productions were produced by youth previously involved with Regent Park Focus. Many of the original youth producers, now grown, were present and looked back fondly at these memories and their time spent with Regent Park Focus.



Please contact Regent Park Focus for more details of these highlights.

2016-2017 HIGHLIGHTS *continued...*



Youth and the Law Outreach Project

One of the ongoing projects of RPF is to promote awareness of issues that young people, especially youth, encounter with the law through activities and education. This year's activity was sponsored in part by the [Ontario Law Foundation](#). In January, RPF partnered with the [University of Toronto Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies](#) to run a series of UofT student-led workshops with youth participants of the RPTV program. The outcome is three videos produced through these workshops; they will be released in 2017.

The [Ontario Justice and Education Network](#) (OJEN), an agency dedicated to educating youth about the law, is another partner working with RPF. Through this partnership RPF youth produced dramatized videos including (1) a look into the inner workings of the little-known Landlord and Tenant Tribunal, and (2) a look into the barriers that many youth may face if trying to find a lawyer. In February, RPF partnered with OJEN to run 12 weeks of educational workshops for young people involved in the Lawrence Heights-based [Pathways to Education Program](#) (in association with [Unison Health](#)). The participants produced several interview-based videos informing their peers on areas related to policing, youth rights, and the workings of the criminal justice system.

RPTV Culture! Series

In 2016, RPF continued its 3-year [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#) funded project to build the organization's capacity to outreach and engage with ethno-culturally diverse communities in the production of television shows promoting awareness of their culture. This program resulted in the production of 22 tv shows and partnerships with Harjeev Singh (Punjabi youth producer), [the Canadian Arab Institute](#), [the Centre Communautaire des Africains Francophones](#), [the Regent Park Bangladesh Community Association](#), and [Khydup Gyatso](#) (a Tibetan educator).

Divas Spoken Word Program

The long-standing [Divas Young Women's Media](#) program celebrated another successful year. With the support of a national grant from the [Canadian Women's Foundation](#), RPF was able to partner with [CANVAS Arts Action Program](#), a not-for-profit arts organization to engage the Divas in weekly anti-oppression workshops throughout the school year. The workshops were designed to inspire young women to produce original spoken word poetry on Muslim cultural identity, homophobia, gender identity, healthy relationships, positive self-esteem, and positive body image. The program culminated in an entertaining spoken word showcase before a full house audience of family and friends.

Please contact Regent Park Focus for more details of these highlights.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 194,380.00
General Supplies	\$ 7,215.00
Rent	\$ 59,073.00
Professional Fees	\$ 27,743.00
Travel	\$ 1,816.00
Equipment	\$ 19,680.00
(maintenance-purchase)	
Service Contracts	\$ 5,990.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,918.00
Printing	\$ 1,304.00
Telephone	\$ 5,908.00
Insurance	\$ 3,082.00

TOTAL \$ 328,109.00

YEAR END

Grants and Donations	\$ 367,306.00
Expenditures	\$ 328,109.00
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	\$ 39,197.00
(deficiency)	.
Unrestricted Net Assets	
Beginning of Year	\$ 61,668.00
End of Year	\$ 100,865.00



THANK YOU!

Staff - Volunteers - Donors

CORE STAFF

Adonis Huggins
Kerry Ambrose
Tyrone MacLean-Wilson
Pat Whittaker
Amil Delic

CONTRACT STAFF

Michael Antoine
Irma Duplessis
Dimitrije Martinovic
Vino Vo
Tusma Sulieman
Kazim Rizvi
Rick Lieu
Eddie Faria

SUMMER STAFF

Alicia Anglin
Pierce Holmes
Saeema Saifuddin
Nicholas Ramsbuck
Aidan Samuels

GENEROUS DONORS

Canadian Women's Foundation
City of Toronto
Dixon Hall & Toronto Foundation
George Brown College
Hagon Design Inc.
Inspirit Foundation
Lowfoot, Inc.
Ministry of Community Safety and Correction Services
National Bank of Canada
One Foundation
Ontario 150 Partnership
Ontario Arts Council
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Robert Labossiere
Rogers Communications, Inc.
Rosedale United Church
The Career Foundation
The United Church of Toronto
Toronto Arts Council
University of Toronto

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