

# REGENT PARK FOCUS



*Annual Report 2011 - 2012*

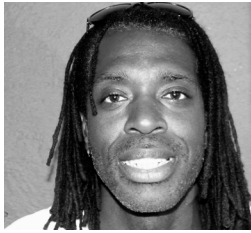
# MISSION STATEMENT

**E**stablished 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 dedicated to:

- 1** The development of best practices in training, education and engagement of community members in new media, radio and television broadcast arts;
- 2** 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;
- 3** 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 stories, and explore issues of relevance.

IN OUR EXPERIENCE, FOR THESE PROGRAMS  
**TO SUCCEED:**

- There has to be an arts facility that can serve as a hub to provide sustained access to varied media art forms
- The arts facility and programs have to allow young people to have a say about the activities undertaken so they feel a sense of ownership
- The arts facility and programs must work to promote equal access and participation, and strive for equitable outcomes, whether the participants are rich or poor, boy or girl, immigrant or non-immigrant, young offender or not, straight or gay, etc.
- The arts facility and programs must be relevant to local issues, challenges and needs of youth and community participants
- The arts facility and programs must involve the participation of professional artists who can inspire, mentor, and foster the development of emerging artists
- The arts facility and programs must provide ongoing access to the necessary technical equipment and high quality arts instruction



*Executive Director,*  
Adonis Huggins

There have been many changes to Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre (Regent Park Focus) since it was first established in 1990. Over the years, the organization has transformed itself from a two-year pilot project into a fully-fledged professional community arts organization. The last few years, in particular, have been a period of substantive change as discussed below.

At present the organization's major concerns are the impact of the loss of its core funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion in 2011, and, subsequently, the end of its affiliation with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Since 1999 CAMH has served as the trustee for funds Regent Park Focus received from the province. The provision of high quality administrative support by CAMH has undoubtedly contributed to the organization's success. Unfortunately, CAMH's affiliation with Regent Park Focus is scheduled to end on March 31, 2013.

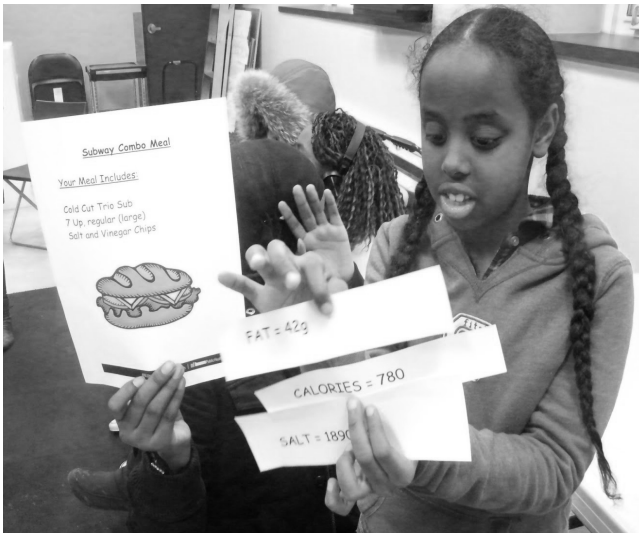
In addition to the aforementioned concerns, on January 7, 2011, Regent Park Focus moved into its new home on 38 Regent Street and in September 2012 set up an administrative office in the Daniels Spectrum Arts and Culture Centre CSI space. Although Regent Park Focus was successful in obtaining a four year rent subsidy from the City of Toronto's Below Market Rent program for the 38 Regent Street facility, and a five year donation from Rogers Communication for its administrative office, the amount of rent the organization will now be paying on a yearly basis is still considerably more than at our old location and will increase with each fiscal year. Considering the significant reduction of Regent Park Focus' core funding, the loss of CAMH as a financial trustee, and significant increases in rent costs, the organization's central concern at this time is whether it will be able to meet its long term financial commitments.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Despite these challenges there is lots of room for optimism. Regent Park Focus has an outstanding reputation as a community arts organization and a strong track record of achievements and accolades. It also has a wide following of diverse stakeholders, a committed Board of Directors and a highly skilled, motivated and dedicated staff team. In the area of physical assets, the 38 Regent site gives Regent Park Focus new and improved facilities and having an administrative office in the Daniels Spectrum Arts and Culture Centre gives the organization an important presence in the neighbourhood's main arts hub. Other assets include: a vigorous social media and web presence; well attended programming with culturally diverse participants between the ages of 10 to 16 years of age; and a large volunteer base of radio programmers. Lastly, Regent Park Focus has cultivated valuable strategic relationships with CAMH, Artscape, Rogers Communication Inc, The Daniels Corporation and Toronto Community Housing, all of which may bode well for the future.

Sincerely,

Adonis Huggins  
Executive Director  
Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre



# REGENT PARK IMPORTANT MILESTONES: *23 years & counting...*

On November 20, 1989, the provincial government announces a plan for achieving healthy and safe communities in Ontario. Regent Park is chosen as one of nine sites selected for multi-year funding.

In 1990, Regent Park Focus is established. Using a grassroots model, Focus begins the task of serving the needs of the community and launches Sunday in the Park community festival and activities for children and youth.

In 1993, Regent Park Focus obtains its registered charitable status and begins using media arts as an intervention activity.

In 1994, Regent Park Focus is awarded a Jury Prize award by the Cabbagetown Film Festival.

In 1995, Regent Park Focus produces two 27 minute television segments on Rogers Cable 10 Toronto. One show is awarded Best Produced Show and is selected for national coast-to-coast airing.

In 1995, Regent Park Focus receives the Mayor's Task Force on Drugs Peer Educators Award.

In 1996, Regent Park Focus is presented with The Addiction Research Foundation's Innovative Prevention Program Award.

In November 1997, a six minute CBC produced news documentary on Regent Park Focus is televised nationally.



In 1999, two staff members from Regent Park Focus are recruited to work in Ukraine on a Canadian Society for International Health Project.

In 1999, Choices, a video on peer pressure resistance, is distributed to schools across the City of Toronto by the Toronto Public Health Department.

In 1999, its primary funder, the Ontario Ministry of Health, directs Regent Park focus to rescind its registered charitable status and work under the umbrella of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

In 2001, Regent Park Focus is awarded first place in the 2001 CBC National Sound Scapes competition.

In 2002, Regent Park Focus receives designation as an “Exemplary Canadian Program” by Health Canada in “Preventing Substance Use Problems Among Young People: A Compendium Of Best Practices”.

In 2003, Regent Park Focus receives The City of Toronto Mayor’s Community Safety Award for Violence Prevention.

On April 1, 2004, The Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson, officially opens the Regent Park Focus Art Gallery.



In 2005, Regent Park Focus is selected as an exemplary program in the 2005 Best Practice Case Study of Provision of Social Infrastructure to racialized Youth produced by Trent University Applied Social Research and sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

In 2005, Regent Park Focus officially changes its name to the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre.

In February, 2006, the Executive Director of Focus, Adonis Huggins, becomes the first recipient of Face the Arts award, a 10-Month campaign sponsored by the City Of Toronto and Toronto Life Magazine to recognize the city’s “Extraordinary Cultural Mavericks.”

In 2007, Regent Park Focus is profiled in Shooting for Change, an independently produced documentary about Regent Park Focus that is broadcast on Bravo and Omni TV. Regent Park Focus is also awarded the 2007 Mayor’s Community Safety Award.



In 2008, The Adventures of Bikeman, a series of bike safety videos is awarded Best Community Film at the Cabbagetown Film Festival.

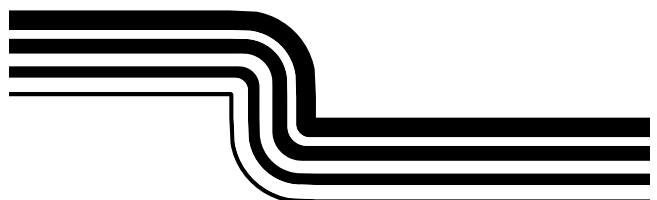
In 2009, Regent Park Focus becomes an organizational client of the Toronto Arts Council.

In 2010, The Ministry of Health announces a new provincial strategy and ends funding to the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. Regent Park Focus reincorporates as a not for profit organization on March 17, 2010.

In 2010, Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre receives multi-year operating funds from Rogers Communications Inc.

On January 8, 2011, Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre moves to its current home at 38 Regent Street in a newly constructed City of Toronto owned building.

In 2011, Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre becomes an operating client of Ontario Arts Council (Arts Education Program).







## Regent Park TV

**R**egent Park TV is a year round video production program where youth meet weekly to learn about video production and plan their own web TV shows. Filming and editing activities are carried out throughout the week and on weekends. The work is delivered in a range of formats including short dramas, documentaries, news shows, public service

# CORE PROGRAMS 2011

announcements and Super8 films. The videos are available for viewing on our YouTube channel and also exhibited at various film festivals and used as peer education resources. Regent Park Focus also offers young people involved in the Regent Park TV program with an opportunity to generate income through the provision of video production services to other groups and organizations.



## The Focus House Band

**T**he aim of this year round program is to engage interested youth in weekly rehearsals and skill development activities related to vocal training, learning instruments and performing live in a music band. The Focus band serves as the house band for The Jam and is regularly called upon to provide back up to other artists which helps in the development of improvisation techniques. The Focus House Band also appears at various events and festivals around the community.



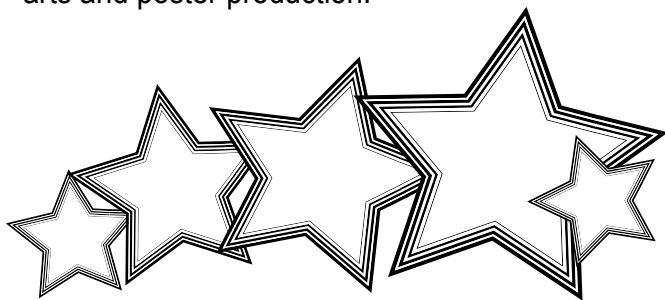
## Radio Regent

**R**adio Regent is a 24 hour Internet radio station that was launched on January 1, 2011. The station is a program of the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. The mandate of Radio Regent is to give voice to communities and provide an alternative to main stream radio. Our programming is produced by local residents of Regent Park and volunteer producers from across the City of Toronto. New programmers are always welcomed. Young people with an interest in broadcast radio are especially encouraged to get involved and one radio show that helps to facilitate youth involvement is Catch da Flava youth radio heard on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.



## The Focus New Media Lab

**T**he Focus New Media Lab offers young people, aged 13-18, free access to internet linked iMac computers and a weekly instructional program combining art and technology. The program operates 3 days a week (3 pm - 8 pm) out of the Focus New Media Lab located in the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. Youth involved in the programming engage in a variety of activities including photo voice projects, comic art, graphic arts and poster production.



## Multi-Media Summer Arts Program

**M**ulti-Media Summer Arts Program is an annual activity that targets youth ages 13-22. The full-day program is offered free during the month of July and August. Youth participants in the program learn basic production skills in music recording, photography, audio arts and video production.

## Radio Regent's The Jam

**L** Radio Regent's The Jam (formerly Last Fridays) The Jam is a free monthly community music and performance showcase of artists from Regent Park and City of Toronto. The event regularly features the Regent Park Focus House Band, dance performances, singer song-writers, and musicians from various musical genres. Many of the music artists who perform at The Jam have been featured on Radio Regent.



## Diva Girls Young Women's Group

**D**iva's Young Women's Group is a pre-teen girls group that meets weekly at Regent Park Focus during the school year to engage in a variety of fun, social, artistic and educational activities. The goal of the program is also to nurture an interest in the media arts among young women

## Boyz to Men Young Men's Group

**S**imilar to the Divas, the aim of the Boyz to Men Program is to engage pre-teen boys in fun, artistic and education activities. An ongoing theme of the program is to challenge prevailing machismo stereotypes of what it means to be a man. The program also serves to nurture young people's interest in media arts.

# YEAR IN NUMBERS

*For the past 12 months  
April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012*



## Statement of Revenue & Expenses

Revenue	\$
grants and donations	179,371
One time grant from Centre for Addiction and Mental Health	8,761
<b>Total</b>	<b>188,132</b>

## Expenses

Salaries	145,664
Benefits	30,458
General supplies	22,584
Rent	17,966
Professional Fees	17,468
Travel	7,721
Equipment maintenance and purchase	4,322
Service contracts - building	4,147
Telephone	4,040
Office supplies	2,209
Printing	1,578
<b>Total</b>	<b>258,157</b>

Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	-70,025
Excess of the beginning of the year	85,200
Excess of the end of the year	15,175

## Community Contacts

Contact Activities	# of contacts made at the activity
Presentations (public)	1,587
Visitors to Focus Centre	1,275
Website Visits	14,379
Telephone and Internet Inquiries	5,469
<b>Total number of contacts</b>	<b>22,750</b>

## Human Resources

Staff	22
Staff FTE	5.5
Radio Programmers	50
Volunteers	29
Volunteer Hours	986.05
Placement Students	16
Placement Hours	365.15
Paid Artists	27
Artist Hours	55.5

## Message to our Sponsors:

Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre would like to give a special thanks to all of our sponsors.

**Your donation is very important to us as we rely on public and private support to help sustain our programs and activities.**

Because of your support, we are able to continue engaging the community through the Arts!



## Membership

<b>Total # of participants Attending Activities</b>	4,997
# of Registered Members	218
# of Male	92
# of Female	126
<b>Age of Members</b>	
Under 12	97
12 ~ 15	68
15 ~ 19	40
19 ~ over	13
<b>Academic Status</b>	
Students	210
Non-students	8

<b>Language Spoken at Home</b>	
English	27.98%
Bengali	6.88%
Somali	6.88%
French	5.96%
Arabic	3.67%
Tamil	3.67%
Pashto	2.75%
Vietnamese	1.83%
Portuguese	1.38%
Amharic	0.92%
Cantonese	0.92%
Spanish	0.92%
Urdu	0.92%
Chinese	0.46%
Farsi	0.46%
Hindi	0.46%
Hungarian	0.46%
Loa	0.46%
Oromo	0.46%
Setswana	0.46%
Sinhalese	0.46%
Swahili	0.46%
Tangelo	0.46%
Unknown	30.73%

# YEAR IN NUMBERS

*continued...*

## Members' place of birth:

<b>Members' place of birth:</b>	
Canada	44.95%
Bangladesh	4.95%
Afghanistan	2.75%
America	1.38%
Angola	0.92%
Botswana	0.92%
Columbia	0.92%
Djibouti	0.92%
England	0.92%
Ethiopia	0.92%
Kenya	0.92%
Somalia	0.92%
Sri Lanka	0.92%
Sudan	0.92%
Uganda	0.46%
Africa	0.46%
Bahraini	0.46%
Chad	0.46%
India	0.46%
Iran	0.46%
Iraq	0.46%
Montreal	0.46%
Mundari	0.46%
Nigeria	0.46%
Pakistan	0.46%
Philippines	0.46%
Yemen	0.46%
Unknown	30.73%

# GRANTS & DONATIONS

*Thank you  
to our sponsors:*

- Canadian Heritage
- Career Foundation
- Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH)
- City of Toronto
- CKLN Radio Incorporated
- The Daniels Corporation
- Dion Durrell & Associates
- Dixon Hall
- Flemingdon Health Centre
- Government of Canada
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Jasmine St. Laurent
- Luminato Toronto Festival Arts
- Mitchell Cohen
- North York Community Centre
- NOW Communications
- Ontario Arts Council
- Regent Park Community Health Centre (Pathways)
- Rogers Communications Inc.
- Tippet Foundation
- Toronto Arts Council
- Toronto Artscape Inc.
- Toronto Arts Foundation
- Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls
- Youth Assisting Youth

## OUR PARTNERS:



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL



**Daniels**  
**love where you live™**

# STAFF & VOLUNTEERS OF THE 2011 PROGRAM YEAR:

## BOARD MEMBERS:

Deany Peters (President)  
Wallo Plummer (Vice-President)  
Paul Weitzmann (Secretary-Minutes)  
Manuel Gitterman (Stakeholder-CAMH)  
Cyrus Sundar-Singh  
Ian Esquivel  
Sam Lao  
William Kuan  
Ruhul Miah (Youth Intern)  
Shadman Rahman (Youth Intern)  
Barbara Steep  
Shiren Van Cooten (Treasurer-Chair)  
Neel Joshi  
Marlon Hylton  
Heidi Overhill  
Joe Stapleton

## POST-SECONDARY PLACEMENT STUDENTS:

Melanie Roy  
James Chan  
Hani Afrah  
Paige Moulton  
Cindy Gouvera  
Aimee Worrell  
Sean Walmsley  
Xavier Luxemburg  
Zeebe Khaleeli  
Laura Creedon  
David Cormier

## FULL & PART-TIME STAFF:

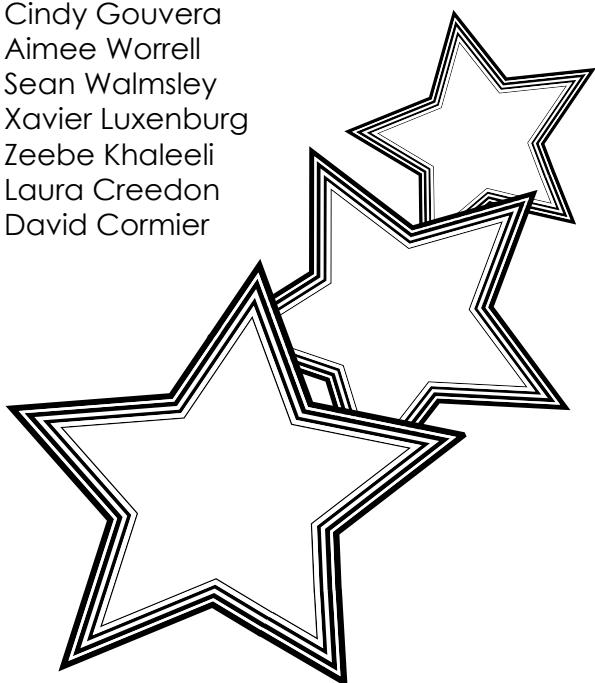
Adonis Huggins  
Pat Whittaker  
Emmanuel Kedini  
Tyrone MacLean-Wilson  
Kerry Ambrose  
Jerry Zabarte  
Megan Drummond  
Michele Peter  
Amardeep Kaur  
Terence Cheng  
Amil Delic  
Andrew O'connor  
Muna Ali  
Damian D'Ornellas  
Hisanori Hatanaka  
Chris Phipps  
Tresvonne Rose-Wilson  
Ruhul Miah  
Neguss Demoz-Goshu  
Waqar Mukarram  
Zeinab Mohamed  
Abdul Wahid Al-Basith

## YOUTH VOLUNTEERS:

Fatima Animer	William Kuan
Shebah Toussaint	Isaac Mbikay
Samina Rahimi	Ruhul Miah
Fazeela Ahmed	Dennay Massiah
Ranminie Perera	Odas Sano
Samira Mohamed	Fiona Hastie
Urooji Makarram	Omar Saifuddin
Fee Herard	Johanna Brenston
Safiqqa Rahimi	Shadman Rahman
Wahida Safi	Jannathara Al-Basith

## ADULT VOLUNTEERS:

Erdine Hope	Caitlin Cassie
Terrance Grant	Kabeer Sethi
Karen Mosby	Kris Erickson
Rani Sanderson	Mariannoi Sciortino
Nicole Connors	



# Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre



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