

Catch da Flava

**SPECIAL EDITION - 2022
SDP PROGRESS REPORT**



Welcome to the 2022 SDP Progress Report

~ A Special Edition of Catch da Flava!

Contained in this issue is a brief report of 2022 activities from each of the working groups and committees that make up the of the Regent Park Social Development Plan network. As a reader we hope you will gain a better understanding of the workings of SDP and contribute to make the Regent Park a place where everyone can participate and belong. Happy Reading!

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What Social Inclusion Means to Me - By SarahJane Growe

I had moved into Regent Park only a few days before I saw the pink, fuchsia, strawberry, indigo, yellow, green, neck streamers and sparkling robes worn by children, parents, aunts, uncles, and elders as they marched passed my kitchen door. Soon, the nearby Athletic Grounds was blazing with colour. Although it was the first time I heard them, the intonations on the microphone were recognizable, even to me, as prayers. It was Eid, the concluding celebration after Ramadan. It was a beautiful sight.

I am a White Jewish senior and I hunted for a stairless condo for years before I chose to live in Regent Park and then only because a relative did business with the new seniors' building there. "Regent Park?" a friend exclaimed. "You are going to have ethnic problems."

"Not I. I come from a long line of fiery leftie activists." I replied.

Stage four and five of revitalizing this post-war subsidized development into a multi-income community was just beginning and I jumped in with both feet.

I joined the Access to Recreation Group of the Regent Park Social Development Plan's Community Building Working Group. Local children were not getting access to Regent Park's new state-of-the-art swimming pool. Middle class families, adept with computers and on-line registration forms, filled the swimming classes while shivering brown mothers lined up from 4 a.m. to await the centre's opening only to find the classes filled with non-Regent Park kids.

I come from a long line of fiery leftie activists and I joined the working group's Access to Recreation Committee to help. Initially, I had trouble understanding why the pool's high windows are covered in gauze-like grey blinds and why there was a need for special classes for Muslim women. I also could not believe that some of my granddaughter's Muslim classmates could not attend her outdoor pool parties so as

not to expose bare arms and legs. My committee colleagues were hostile "White privilege," they said. Could that be possible? Or was it their traumatic years of bulldozers, uprooting and the arrival of new residents that made them distrustful? I had a lot to learn.

I attended several months of meetings, advocating for Regent Park priority registration, gathering statistics on who uses the facilities and hearing concerns about racism at the pool. I have come to understand these concerns and several of my colleagues have become my friends. When we were ready to meet with the city's Confronting Anti-Black Racism advisory group, I was told I could not attend as it was only for black advocates. I struggled with this as I had worked hard on the committee. I wish there was no racism or discrimination and everyone had equal opportunities no matter the colour of skin or religion. Unfortunately, this is not the case. However, I will continue my involvement in this exciting grassroots anti-racism project known as the SDP.

I love this neighborhood. With Nelson Mandela Park Public School nearby, I see children sailing past my window, skipping while bouncing soccer balls. Many evenings, I sit on a bench watching tournament calibre soccer games, lit by the professional high double-bulb standards, yes, but also under a magic moon in its many phases. I watch youth and bearded construction workers play ping pong by the basketball court, and the hoop games look good too. Living in Regent Park I can walk (slowly) to the Distillery District, to the theatre, to The World Urban Pavilion. The beach is a short drive away, as is the Art Gallery. It's great to live downtown but as much as I enjoy the convenient location, what I really love is connecting to neighbours in my alive, diverse, sparkling neighbourhood. It is never too late for social inclusion.

SarahJane Growe is a market resident member of the SDP involved in the Planning Committee, Community Building Working Group, Safety Network and the Funding Task Group.

Meetings...More Meetings! - An inside look at the meetings of the SDP - by Adonis Huggins

On May 10, 2023, the Regent Park Social Development Plan network will be holding a community meeting reporting on the work and achievements over the past year.

For those of you who are unaware, the Regent Park Social Development Plan (SDP) is a community wide initiative aimed at bringing all residents and groups together to stimulate positive social change around four priority areas, each represented by a working group (community safety, community building, employment and economic development and communication). These working groups meet monthly. In addition to the working groups, there are also four standing committees (Evaluation and Benchmark, the Funding Committee, the Community Benefits Oversight Working Group and the Planning Committee). Some of these committees meet monthly, some bi-weekly and some, like the Planning Committee, meet every single week! As if all these meetings were not enough, almost all the workgroups and committees have task groups or sub-committees that meet in between these meetings to help carry out the work and activities. Lastly, the SDP is governed by the SDP Stakeholders Table that meets four times a year. As you can imagine, with a structure as complex as the SDP, on any day of the week there will be one

or more meetings related to the SDP and their activities. “Who goes and what is the point of all these meetings?” one might ask.

The bulk of attendees that go to these meetings are TCHC residents, but they also include market residents, the Regent Park Neighbourhood Association (RPNA), members of grassroots groups, support staff from local community agencies, as well as representatives of Toronto Community Housing and the City of Toronto. The SDP also involves the participation of businesses and, depending on the meeting, employees of Tridel and Daniels may be in attendance. Despite the support of agency staff and professionals, a unique feature of the SDP structure is that no one is delegated with authority. While each of the working groups and committees have annually elected resident and agency co-chairs, in general, meetings are facilitated by rotating members (often residents) and meetings themselves are run like collectives, by which I mean, agenda items can be proposed by anyone and almost all decisions are made by consensus.

As you can imagine, attending meetings with 20 + people not only from across different cultures, education and income levels, but also with various ideas, perspectives, values, beliefs



and experiences - can be extremely taxing. The reality is that it can be very difficult to identify the things you have in common and make group decisions— especially when everyone in the meeting must agree. In fact, many would say this is an impossible feat. And truth be told, the SDP is comprised of members with passionate opinions on almost everything and it's a guarantee that there will be strong opposition to whatever is proposed no matter how small or large the issue. Time and time again, I have sat in SDP meetings where members are at odds with one another – and when I say at odds, I really mean at odds! Unfortunately, at times these passions result in members losing sight of the issues they are advocating for and attacking or insulting the character of the person they are arguing with. Even when there is an absence of put downs, other disrespectful behaviours may be exhibited that may make members feel unsafe to voice their opinion and even attend meetings. On top of these dilemmas, whether an SDP meeting is effective or not, regularly depends upon the abilities of the rotating chair to manage conflict and prevent members from interrupting each other, straying from the agenda or launching into long winded speeches that eat away at time and belabouring a point.

Despite these challenges, it would be wrong in my opinion to characterize the SDP and their endless meetings as dysfunctional. Imperfect as it is, the SDP is structured the way it is to ensure that residents and community members can participate in real and earnest discussions about their community and come up with collective solutions on how to address the needs and gaps that are barriers to social inclusion and cohesion. The SDP is also designed to engage and empower residents to have a say in decisions that impact their lives. Rather than have only agency professionals lead meetings and organize activities, the SDP makes a real effort to provide opportunities for residents to practice facilitating meetings and develop their leadership skills through involvement in planning and organizing. Furthermore, for many residents, this is the first time they have had an opportunity to attend a meeting or organize an activity

where they are valued as equal participants with professionals. The SDP is a place where resident opinions, ideas and input are genuinely sought, and where they can question and hold authorities to account for the role that they play in resident lives - whether that is police, elected representatives, other agencies, City of Toronto or Toronto Community Housing.

The SDP is imperfect and yes, heated words may be exchanged and arguments can be better stated. But through discussions with others with differing perspectives and opinions, attendees have the chance to exchange ideas, build trusting relationships and learn what motivates others in believing or feeling what they feel. Often, these discussions lead to a complete change or compromise in a position, once held to be true – how else can consensus decisions happen?

For those that justify their non-involvement and withhold their contribution by arguing that SDP is dysfunctional, and their numerous meetings are a waste of time –one only has to look at everything that the working groups, committees, sub-committees and task groups have achieved in the past year, not to mention its successes in years gone past. Believe me it would be a long list!

A brief summary of the successes of the past year is contained in this report issue of Catch da Flava. However, on May 10th, Regent Parkers and their families will have an opportunity to attend in person to hear more about these achievements as well as the challenges. The only problem is – community members will have to attend ANOTHER MEETING!!!

By Adonis Huggins

Adonis is the Agency Co-Chair of the SDP Communications Working Group & the Executive Director of the FOCUS Media Arts Centre.

Adonis Huggins

Understanding The Regent Park Social Development Plan (SDP)



The SDP was created in consultation with Regent Park residents and stakeholders to preserve the spirit of the neighbourhood through the revitalization process and to stimulate social cohesion and positive social change in the community. The SDP outlines social / economic strategies and mechanisms that will lead to a renewed community and is organized around the four pillars, each represented by a working group. They are Communications, Community Building, Employment and Economic Development, and Safety. The SDP is also supported through various committees including a SDP Planning Committee that guides the work. All working groups and committees are governed by the SDP Stakeholders Table.

Working Groups

Communications
(Agency Co-Chair)

Community Building

Employment and
Economic Development

Safety

Committees

Terms of Reference

Funding Committee

Evaluation and
Benchmarks

Planning Committee

Community Benefits
Oversight Working Group

**SDP
STAKEHOLDERS
TABLE**

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graph LR; A[SDP STAKEHOLDERS TABLE] --- B[Communications (Agency Co-Chair)]; A --- C[Community Building]; A --- D[Employment and Economic Development]; A --- E[Safety]; A --- F[Terms of Reference]; A --- G[Funding Committee]; A --- H[Evaluation and Benchmarks]; A --- I[Planning Committee]; A --- J[Community Benefits Oversight Working Group];
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2022 Community Building Working Group Report

Purpose:

Create accessible informal and formal spaces, events and groups that bring residents together by removing social and physical barriers; build bridges between market and TCH residents, as well as between residents and agencies/institutions.

Resources:

(* groups that do not report to the SDP)

- * \$85,986 from 2021 City of Toronto SDP for Building Leaders For Change (Trustee - K-Club)
- \$70,780 from 2021 City of Toronto SDP for Women's Health Social Circle and Engagement Network (Trustee - Dixon Hall)
- * \$82,815 from 2021 the City of Toronto SDP for Youth Enrichment Academy (Trustee - RPCHC)
- * \$15,000 from United Way SIIF for Volunteer Recruitment (2019-2021, Trustee - YSM)
- * \$39,000 from United Way SIIF for Culture Bazaar (2019-2023, Trustee - TCCLD)
- * \$24,000 from United Way SIIF for NextGen League (2021-2023, Trustee - CSI)
- * \$15,000 from United Way SIIF for Sewing The Climate (2023-2022, Trustee - TCCLD)
- \$58,880 from 2021 City of Toronto SDP for Healing as One (Trustee - CSI)
- \$24,000 from United Way SIIF for Healing as One (2021-2023, Trustee - CSI)
- \$24,000 from United Way SIIF for Dreamers Market (2021-2023, Trustee - CSI)

2022 Activities and Projects:

Monthly Meetings - with presentations by community groups, non-profits, and businesses about what they do.

2022 Sunday In The Park - This is annual neighborhood festival took place on Sunday August 14th, 2022. The Community Building working group brought together a planning committee of

multiple stakeholders, led by the youth-led not-for-profit organization Healing as One. The event included a community BBQ that fed approximately 700 residents and engaged much more residents through entertainment and activities such as games, trivia and raffle prize give-aways. Vendors also had an opportunity to promote their products and services.

Community Space Needs Report - The Community Building Working Group led efforts to inform the City of Toronto, of the community's need for office space, recreational space, prayer space, programming and safe activity spaces in Regent Park.

The report, published on March 18, 2022, is a resource and space needs assessment. The report contains 30 requests for space submissions - 29 submissions from organizations and one submission regarding community space governance. The report was included in the Community Services and Facilities report, which was submitted by Tridel and TCHC as part of the rezoning application in April 2022.

Access to Spaces Project - Outreach to residents and agencies around needs and capacity in regards to making space available for grassroots group activities in the neighbourhood. Activities consisted of meetings and discussions with stakeholders/partners, residents, agencies and service providers along with community events and surveys. Other space related activities including: designing a policy in March of 2023 for SDP members use of the 3rd Floor of Daniels Spectrum; providing Feedback for Yonge Street Mission building project at 306/310 Gerrard St. East.;

Support for the UN Habitat Pavilion - Community and Conversations about Regent Park: past, present and future - November 2022.

Support for the Black History Month Celebration -led by Children and Youth Services, RP Community Health Centre and held at the Daniels Spectrum on

Support for food security initiatives - In August 2022, the Community Building Working Group hosted the inaugural meeting of the food security coalition to address food insecurity and promote the City of Toronto's food charter. Members of the coalition distributed food boxes filled to hundreds of Regent Park residents.

Plans for 2023:

1. Monthly meetings, with presentations by community groups, non-profits, and businesses about what they do.
2. 2023 Sunday in the Park - led by Neighbourhood Information Post
3. 2024 Community Black History Month Celebration
4. Contribute to formation of Recreation Advisory Group led by Parks, Forestry and Recreation

How to Participate:

Monthly meetings are on the first Tuesday evening of each month.

Contact Info:

Community Building Working Group Co-chairs:
TCH Chair: Walied Khogali, walied.k@gmail.com, 416-625-7712
Market Markett Co-chair: Rabia Alsabaie, spring83_2004@yahoo.com
Agency Chair: Joel Klassen - Yonge Street Mission, jklassen@ysm.ca, 416-992-3692

To join the group, please send an email to: sdpcommunitybuilding@gmail.com, or call one of the phone numbers below.

Special Mention:

A big shout-out to Chris Klugman who made the Paintbox Bistro available for community functions and Murshida Samsun Mueen, who served as TCH resident co-chair until August 2021, and laid much of the groundwork for our activities in 2022.

Thank you also to the 14+ groups that participated in the Community Building Working Group.



2022 Employment and Economic Development Working Group Report

Purpose:

The goal of the Employment and Economic Development Working Group is to increase employment rates and entrepreneurial opportunities for local residents.

Resources:

- \$58,880 from 2021 City Toronto SDP for Healing as One (Trustee - CSI)
- \$61,000 from 2020 City of Toronto SDP for EED Lead Project (Trustee - YSM)
- \$30,000 from United Way SIIF for EED Strategy (2019-2021, Trustee - YSM)

2022 Activities and Projects:

Monthly Meetings - with presentations by organizations, non-profits, and businesses about what they do to increase employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for local residents.

Infini-Guard - Providing Community-Based Security Services and high-wage employment to youth through Infini-Guard, a social enterprise security company in Regent Park.

EED Lead Project - The project funded two positions - EED Lead and EED Working Group Administrative Coordinator. The goal of the project was to: build relationships with EED stakeholders in Regent Park, connect residents with community organizations and programs/resources; increase communication between stakeholders; and build from existing research to identify the gaps, assets and opportunities.

The EED Lead with support from the EED Administrative Coordinator, was able to make strong professional relationships with over 40 residents, connecting them to jobs, resources

and community organizations, 2 local grassroots groups (Women's Entrepreneur Group and Women's Social Committee), many businesses, 3 developers (TCHC, Daniels and Tridel) and 16 organizations.

In total, the EED Lead has conducted over 150 engagement sessions with different stakeholders in Regent Park. Based on qualitative evidence, many stakeholders, particularly residents have benefited from the EED Lead work. For instance, 120 new contacts and email addresses were added to the EED mailing list including 16 youth, which now totals 175 stakeholders. Additionally, 10 new members were added to the Regent Park Community WhatsApp group. As a result, more residents are informed about jobs, community events, programs, resources and other EED-related opportunities, thus lessening the knowledge gap between residents' EED needs and community programs, jobs and resources.

Relationship building allowed the EED Lead Project to move towards identifying action priorities and building a new work plan and framework to implement the following projects:

Regent Park Women's Entrepreneurs Group

The Regent Park Women's Entrepreneur Group supports women in the community by helping them develop, plan and market their businesses to other residents living in the neighborhood through various initiatives (i.e. Cultural Bazaar, Taste of Regent Park and the Night Market).

The Women's Entrepreneur Group provide four areas of support:

- Peer Mentorship - help each other share resources and concerns
- Business Coaching - one to one help to start and grow your business

- Training - build capacity to start and grow your business
- Business Supports - find funding to start and grow your business through government and others

The Moonlight Market

Held every Thursday between July 28, 2022, and September 15, 2022, the goal of the Moonlight Market was to animate the north patio of 555 Dundas Street East at the corner of Sackville and Dundas - with a night market to promote the street vibrancy, provide community building opportunities and support local businesses, including equity deserving start-up women micro entrepreneurs.

The Market was a showcase of local female-identified entrepreneurs and incubated over 45 local entrepreneurs and created paid opportunities for local artists and entertainers.

This initiative included business coaching for female-identified early stage entrepreneurs, created jobs for local residents, and honorarium for youth volunteers.

Plans for 2023:

There four projects planned for 2023:

1. Workforce Integrator

With the support of a \$60,000 Metcalf Foundation's Opportunities Fund grant, the EED Work Group plans to develop a place-based workforce development strategy for future employment pathways.

2. Continue the Development of Women's Entrepreneur Group and the implementation of the Learning Series 2.0 Project

In the Employment and Economic Development Working Group Community Report that was developed in 2021, capacity building workshops for women was identified as a need. With the support of a grant of \$65,675.95 from the City

of Toronto -Social Development Plan Funds, this project will fill the gap in the community towards entrepreneurial support for women from business skills building to business coaching.

- 10-20 women entrepreneurs will have knowledge and confidence of how to start, develop and grow their entrepreneurial business
- 5 resident will learn to project manage an employment and economic development initiative
- Increased # of sustainable women entrepreneurial business in Regent Park
- Increased resident decision making and leadership

3. Cafe Pop Up

With the support of a \$50,000 grant from the City of Toronto -Mainstreet Innovation Fund this project will animate the cafe space in the Artscape Lounge as a platform for local FOOD entrepreneurs to test and build their businesses, and provide hot meals in a community space

How to Participate:

1. Stay informed - through our email newsletter
2. Participate in our monthly meetings that occur the third Tuesday of every month from 5pm to 7pm
3. Get in involved in the work of the group through projects such as the Women's Entrepreneur Group, Moonlight Market, Learning Series, and Cafe Pop up
4. Become part of the leadership of the Workgroup

Contact info:

Employment and Economic Development Working Group co-chairs
 Market Chair: Gail Lynch, gaillyn@gmail.com
 TCHC Chair: Ismail Afrah, Ismailhafrah@gmail.com
 EED Group Email: regentparkeed@gmail.com

2022 Regent Park Safety Network – Working Group

Purpose:

Increase community safety and well being for residents and their families living in Regent Park by:

- Equipping residents with new transferable skills and resources that better their mental health;
- Strengthen police relationships with residents leading to better community policing strategies and tactics;
- Providing input on the design of spaces with the goal of integrating Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) to deter illegal behaviour;
- Providing opportunities to meaningfully engage residents to identify the barriers faced by youth and their parents within their community.

Resources:

(* groups that do not report to the SDP)

- \$110,990 from the 2021 City of Toronto SDP for Youth Empowering Youth (YEY) (Trustee, K-Club)
- \$15,000 from United Way SIIF for Youth Service Mapping Project (2019-2021, Trustee - TNG)
- \$30,000 from United Way SIIF for Parent Conference/Workshops (2019-2021, Trustee - TCCLD)
- * \$24,000 from United Way SIFF for Knowledge 2 Wisdom (2021-2023 , Trustee, K-club)
- * \$225,000 from United Way SIFF for Youth Enrichment Academy (2019-2023, Trustee - RPCHC)
- * \$225,000 from United Way SIFF for Regent Park Youth Outreach Workers (YOW) (2019-2023, Trustee - TNG)

2022/2023 Activities and Projects

Monthly meetings - with residents, police and stakeholders on issues related to safety.

Development of a Culturally-Specific Mental Health Plan

Provided access to trauma-informed resources - access to mental health/First-Aid training, CPR w/Naloxone training for Regent Park tenants and stakeholders through collaboration with mental health serving institutions. (4 times per year).

Working with Toronto Police Service (TPS) - to improve police communications with residents by facilitating more updates and ensuring information are shared in a timely manner.

Providing input to the Community Crisis Response Network (CCRN) - to have greater community accessibility.

Working with Youth Empowering Youth (YEY) - to develop an asset map of youth programs and resources, and a collaborative safe space among agencies for youth to gather.

Conducting regular safety audits.

Organizing an annual Summer BBQ celebrating safety in the community.

Plans for 2023

1. Creating a Plan to Connect with Youth and Parents

- a) RPSN will collaborate with the Frontline Youth Worker Network Table to host 2 focus

groups for the purpose of engaging all young people to identify their needs. (2 times per year)

b) RPSN will host 1 parent focus group to identify needs for their children. (once per year)

2. Training, programs and activities to build capacity for Regent Park tenants

a) Speaking With Confidence Training. (2 times per year)

b) How to Facilitate a Meeting Training. (2 times per year)

c) Advocacy Training. (2 times per year)

3. Making Regent Park Safer

a) Community safety needs assessments (once per year)

b) Safety walks to inform safety audits for Regent Park. Liaising TPS, Toronto Community Housing, City of Toronto (2 times per year)

c) Host joint community meeting to connect with other communities also experiencing safety concerns and share best practices – i.e. Cabbagetown, St. Jamestown (once per year)

d) Create formal spaces increasing participation at community round table discussions for Regent Park tenants to meet and discuss safety issues in a safe environment (9 times per year)

e) Co-create accountability process for Regent Park tenants in collaboration with stakeholders and residents (once per year)

How to Participate:

Monthly meetings are held every 3rd Monday evening of the month.

Contact Info:

TCH Resident Co-chair, Hajia Abubakar

Market chair Co-chair, Leonard Swartz, leonard.Swartz@rogers.com

Agency Co-Chair, Toronto Community Housing (TCH), Jermal Humphrey, T: 416-554-0544
Jermal.Humphrey@torontohousing.ca



2022 Communications Working Group Report

Purpose:

To build social cohesion amongst residents, groups and stakeholders by making information easily accessible for everyone in the community.

Resources:

- \$51,361 from 2021 City of Toronto SDP for RPTV (Trustee, FOCUS)
- \$39,293 from 2021 City of Toronto SDP for promotions (Trustee, FOCUS)
- \$225,000 from United Way SIIF for Communications Strategy (2019-2023, Trustee, CSI)

2022 Activities:

Monthly Meetings -with residents and representatives of Centre for Social Innovation (CSI), Focus Media Arts Centre (Focus), Yonge Street Mission (YSM) and Visions of Tomorrow for the purposes of :

1. Producing an online monthly e-newsletter (Regent Park newsletter);
2. The development, launch and maintenance of Hello Neighbour, a new website for RPNA and a centralized online neighbourhood hub;
3. Creation of neighbourhood content for Regent Park TV.
4. Promotion of the SDP

Regent Park Monthly News

12 issues of the Regent Park Monthly News produced over the past year. There is a steady increase in readership and subscriptions, and more reliable contributions from agencies and programs in the neighbourhood.

Hello Neighbour

At long last, the APP HAS BEEN LAUNCHED!!! Hello Neighbour App is a mobile way of staying informed on all the happenings and resources of Regent Park. The app includes a directory of community services.

As of the end of March 2023, the app is available for download on both Google Play and the Apple App store. We currently have 700+ downloads.

Regent Park TV (RPTV)

Through support from the SDP, three Regent Park residents were hired to help produce content.

Since the last reporting period there has been a greater emphasis on reporting on the SDP (meetings, events and activities) along with issues impacting on the community, through the development of a weekly news show (Regent Park TV Weekly News). For the period of this report 24 weekly news episodes were produced. In addition to the weekly news, RPTV continues to produce single issue news stories about topics featuring the SDP, RPNA and community benefits . To date 35 single issue news stories have been produced and on RPTV for viewing.

182 **new** subscribers to RPTV over one year period of this report (slightly down from 224 last year).

44,400 views of RPTV content over period of this report (slightly up from 43,327 last year).

24 RPTV weekly news segments over period of this report.

35 single issue RPTV news stories (59 videos - similar rate as last year of approx 1 video per week)

SDP Promotions

In 2022 new project (SDP Promotions), funded

by the SDP, to hire 3 residents as outreach ambassadors, and promotions specialists.

This project built on the capacity of residents to promote the SDP among their networks and support SDP initiative. The project leverages local leadership to develop community buy-in to the new communication tools and resources.

Plans for 2023:

Catch da Flava Online and Print

In 2023/2024 the Communications Working Group and Focus Media Arts Centre will take on more of a co-ordinating role in RPTV, the RPTV Weekly News, and the Newsletter. This will ensure great continuity of information across platforms, and that information is organized into daily, weekly, and monthly categories, for community distribution. As part of this activity FOCUS has secured funding of \$65,000 from the SDP to continue hiring 3 residents to create content for RPTV and the e-newsletter and plans to produce a print version of the Regent Park monthly news (renamed Catch da Flava) with currently 1,060 subscriptions.

Continued Development of Hello Neighbour

Now that the Hello Neighbour App is live on both Google and Apple platforms, RPNA, Regent Park Social and YSM has formed a sub-committee that will play more of a role in the promotion of the App and identifying funding support to resource the on-going content updates.

Media Policy

Lastly the Communications Working Group has formed a task group to draft a media policy governing recordings of SDP meetings.

How to participate:

1. Stay informed - through Hello Neighbour App and Regent Park TV on YouTube and join our email newsletter subscription for Catch da Flava
2. Participate in our monthly meetings that occur the last Monday evening of every month from 4:30pm to 6pm
3. Get in involved as a volunteer reporter or journalist for Regent Park TV
4. Submit an article to Catch da Flava

Contact Info:

Agency Co-Chair - Adonis Huggins
Focus Media Arts Centre
Email- Adonisregentparkfocus@gmail.com

TCHC Resident Co- Chair - Murshida Mueen
Email- mursida777@gmail.com

Market Resident Co-chair - Currently Vacant

Special Mentions:

Thank you to former resident co-chairs, Abraham Afrah and Marleene Degenova and former Agency Co-chair Denise Soueidan O'Leary from CSI.



2022 SDP Planning Committee Report

Purpose:

Makes recommendations to the SDP; Supports the Stakeholders Table on strategic direction and action priorities; Supports the SDP Stakeholders' Table to ensure that the meetings are effective; Identifies information and/or expertise that Stakeholders require in order to make sound and informed decisions; Develops facilitation approaches that increase the capacity of all stakeholders to engage in discussion and decision making; Supports and coordinates the working groups; Does stakeholder and resident engagement; Addresses requirements and/or requests that need a quick response; Reviews annual City of Toronto operating Funds;

Resources:

- \$50,000 from City of Toronto for operating funds

2022 Activities

Weekly Meetings - The Planning Committee conducts regular weekly meetings involving working group co-chairs, residents, organizations, City staff and other stakeholders.

Stakeholders Table – Hosted 3 SDP Stakeholders Table meeting and one progress report meeting.

Administration Hiring – Hiring of a new administrative coordinator, Danyal Mukarram.

Workplan & Budget Review – Coordinating an annual workplan and development of an operation budget of \$50,000 in partnership with City of Toronto.

Shaping Culture Task Group – Creation of a group to review organizational culture of the SDP. Succeeded in drafting a policy on a conflict resolution process.

SDP Funding Task Group – Creation of a group

to work with the City on the 2024 SDP Grants in partnership with the SDP Funding Committee.

Plans for 2023

- Most of the activities in 2022 above are ongoing every year.
- Update of the SDP Terms of Reference
- Preparing for community wide involvement in the creation of a new 5-year SDP strategic plan.

How to participate in 2023

Active members of SDP working groups and committees can join planning committee meetings.

Contact info

Administrator Danyal Mukarram, 437 247 6799, sdp.regentpark@gmail.com
TCH Resident Co-Chair, Ismail Afra (RPNA),
Market Co-Chair, Marlene DeGenova (RPNA),
Agency Co-Chair, Greg Gary (K-Club/ED Network)

Special Mention

Special thanks to City of Toronto Staff, Daniella Castello and Richard Kirwan for their involvement and on-going support.

Resolving Conflicts Within the SDP: Report From Shaping Culture Task Group

The following is a draft conflict resolution policy presented by the Culture Task Group, an ad hoc sub-committee of the SDP Planning Committee. The Culture Task Group was established to explore ways in which members can better work together.

In the Social Development Plan community, we understand that conflict will arise among our members as a natural part of working together. We want to build a culture among us where we all agree that it is not wrong to be in conflict with others. When managed well, it is possible for conflict to lead to groups working better together. When conflicts become stuck, we as a group recognize that conflicts can have repercussions both for individuals involved, and for the wider network. Collectively, it is our responsibility to work through conflict to effectively address and resolve issues.

The policy outlines three essential principles that members should consider when working through conflict:

Self-accountability: When you have an issue with another person or when another person has an issue with you, consider whether you may have contributed to the issue. Are there any changes you can make within yourself?

Mutual accountability: If a person brings a concern to you, be open to hearing it and responding from an open stance.

Trust Building: In situations where trust is low, look for ways to build it. One way to build trust is to address conflicts with as few people present as necessary. Engaging in conflict with a large

number of people present can make addressing the conflict more challenging.

The policy is accompanied by a chart describing a variety of ways that members can move through conflict. The chart outlines four scenarios.

1. Both/all parties are willing to talk to each other, in which case members set aside time to listen and speak to each other one or more time/s, out of a mutual willingness to come to an understanding.
2. Not all parties are willing to talk to each other, in which case those that wish to speak turn to another member of the network/community as a neutral person to seek ways to engage the other.
3. No parties wish to talk to each other and in the case the conflict continues to hinder the group, the group leads or offers a formal process with a neutral third party, or the group leads offer to bring together larger circle, with an agreed upon facilitator, to hear concerns of both parties, and create space for all members of the circle to speak about how the conflict is affecting them.
4. Lastly, if no resolution to the conflict can be agreed upon and the work of the group continues to be hindered, the situation will be addressed through the code of conduct which is also currently in process of development by the Culture Task Group.

Following a presentation by the Culture Task Group to the SDP Planning Committee, one of the recommendations was to include an ombudsperson or one or more conflict resolution facilitators that can help conflicted parties work through the policy. The Culture Task Group will present the final draft at a future meeting.

2022 Funding Committee Report

Purpose:

Identifies funding and resources for the SDP and collaborating with the City of Toronto to implement the SDP Grants.

2022 Activities

Regular meetings - with active members of the SDP workgroups, City of Toronto staff and other stakeholders.

SDP Internal Review Report - Produced a report outlining SDP recommendations for the 2022 City of Toronto SDP Grants.

City Negotiations - Negotiated with the City of Toronto Funding Unit regarding the funding guidelines for the SDP Action Plan funding.

2023 Plans

In partnership with the SDP Funding Task Group, the Funding Committee will be negotiating with the City of Toronto regarding the funding guidelines for the 2024 SDP Action Plan funding (\$500,000). This should lead to a community process later in 2023 for allocating the 2024 Action Plan funding. Note that 2024 is the last year of the approved Action Plan funding.

How to participate:

Any member of the SDP working groups or committees are welcomed to join the SDP Funding Committee membership list and receive meeting notifications.



Contact Info:

Agency Co-chair - Diana Mavunduse (Dixon Hall),

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Interim Co-chair - Adonis Huggins, Focus Media Arts Centre

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2022 Evaluation and Benchmarks Committee

Purpose:

Strives to assist all working groups and committees within the SDP in their efforts to evaluate their impact within the Regent Park community. Impact includes but is not limited to the SDP goals of social cohesion and inclusion.

Resources:

Activities are resourced through YSM with additional support from the SDP operating budget.

2022 Activities

Development of a yearly cycle - outlines when working groups and committees should be developing their objectives, collecting data and analyzing their work throughout the year.

Evaluation Party – party to kick the development of common indicators of success for all working groups and committees.

Plans for 2023

- Implementation of evaluation workshops promoting awareness of the evaluation process.
- Recruitment and orientation of evaluation champions, who will take on the work of data collection from their respective working groups and committees!
- Holding evaluation parties for the champions and committee members to collaborate, capacity build and get to know each other!

How to participate in 2023

Join the Evaluation and Benchmarks Committee! Meetings occur every other Thursday on Zoom. Participate in 2023's Evaluation Parties. Apply to be an evaluation champion to assist with evaluating the SDP committees.

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Want to Contribute To The Next Issue?

If you would like to submit content to Catch da Flava's monthly Regent Park newspaper, contact us at info@focusmediaarts.ca

Thank you to all the groups and organizations who helped to make the 2022 SDP a successful year!

RPTV

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