

THE BUZZ
REGENT PARK FOCUS
YOUTH MEDIA ARTS CENTRE'S
NEWSLETTER
Spring 2012

The Buzz is a quarterly newsletter devoted to informing the broader community about the activities of the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. This issue covers the period of March 1, 2012 to May 31, 2012. Previous issues of the Buzz are available for downloading at www.regentparkfocus.com.

One, two, one, two.

2012 is off to an exciting start for Regent Park Focus. **Radio Regent**, a new community project initiative, premiered in January. *Radio Regent* is a hip new internet radio station housed at 38 Regent Street. The mandate of *Radio Regent* is to provide a voice to Regent Park with a focus on social justice themes and good tunes. Check us out at www.radioregent.com, or better yet, hit us up to pitch your own show!

Catch da Flava Youth Collective

Every Tuesday you can listen to local youth chat about what matters to them on **Catch da Flava Radio**, a half hour program on Radio Regent. Catch da Flava radio covers global, social, political, and entertaining issues of all sorts. Youth are also now learning how to create PSA ads and radio documentaries for broadcast.

On January 23, our budding radio djs and media moguls were invited to the premiere of the movie Red Tails at the AMC Yonge/Dundas. The Focus kids even schmoozed with Cuba Gooding Jr., the Hollywood star. The following evening's Catch da Flava radio show consisted of a lively discussion about the storyline. The consensus was that it was an inspiring movie with historical roots and amazing aeronautical action scenes.

Last Fridays – Party Rocking

What's a better way to wrap up the first month of 2012 than with a party? There was a great community turnout for the Last Fridays' event on January 27. Regent Park Focus had the Daniels Presentation Centre at 500 Dundas Street West party rocking with the help of local musicians. The talented Regent Park Focus House Band also performed for their fans.

The Last Friday on February 24 was also a sensational night! Rainbow Bear made a surprise visit for the little ones, and the musicians kept the energy jumping. The musical talent ranged from Bengali hip-hop, Indie rock, soulful R&B, and spoken word poetry. And, the Sri Lankan food was delicious!

Be sure to check out the scene next month with your friends and family; everyone is welcome!

Grant Victory

Regent Park Focus was successful in its pursuit of an OAC grant to help with strategic planning. The Ontario Arts Council has been a supportive funder of Focus for several years. We look forward to using this grant to map out a revised 5 year game plan. It will definitely help the Board and staff to pursue big goals with increased efficiency and skill!

Media Lab & Comic Life

Regent Park Focus' drop in media lab has continued to be a neighbourhood attraction. It's also a learning hub with the Comic Life program. All the children who have signed up are learning to design posters digitally, using Adobe Illustrator and images from the internet. Some of the workshop and art themes include healthy habits, safety, and inspirational people and heroes.

Are you a Diva?

Focus's Diva program is the place to be on Friday nights. The program is for girls between the ages of 11 to 16 years of age with an interest in media and self-empowerment. So far, the group members have been having a great time connecting with each other and learning about healthy decision-making. A big thank you goes to Toronto Public Health for providing outside expertise.

Photography Workshop

In February, Focus' Photography Workshop wrapped up. The instructor, Nick Kozak, empowered the participants to use photography as a tool of documentation. In the process, they learned the technical functions of a camera and how to frame a shot and capture light.

The final product was a series of photographs that portrayed youth who were trying to figure out "who" and where they are in the ever changing landscape known as the Regent Park Revitalization Project.

Shout-Outs

We wish to thank our student assistants from George Brown College in the Community Worker Program and our student volunteers from York University's teacher program. The students bring great energy to all the projects they work with. This year they definitely made an impact on our Divas program and Catch da Flava Magazine!

Updates

Don't forget to check out our event and activities blog online at:
<http://regentparkfocus.blogspot.com/>

And be sure to stay tuned for updates about our newest initiative, **Regent Park Community TV** (programming starts in 2013!). Also, if you would like to host a radio program please contact us (email: regentparkfocus@gmail.com) for an application form – we would love to hear your ideas!

Did You Know

Did you know that **x** people took part in program activities offered by Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre during the Winter 2011-2012 season?

Or that Regent Park Focus conducted presentations to **x** people and received **x** website visitors during this same period?

We're still busy!

About Regent Park Focus

Established in 1991, [Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre \(Regent Park Focus\)](#) is a not-for-profit organization located in Regent Park, Toronto. Regent Park Focus is motivated by the belief that community arts and participatory media practices play a vital role in building and sustaining healthy communities. Regent Park Focus seeks to increase civic engagement and inspire positive change by giving youth the tools and support to create artistic works and media productions.

Youth are encouraged to work collectively to develop resources that explore issues of relevance to them and their communities. These resources, along with the process of creating them, increase personal well-being, contribute to community health and address systemic barriers to equitable social participation.

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