

# REGENT PARK FOCUS YOUTH MEDIA ARTS CENTRE





## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reflecting upon Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre's 2012 year, the words that come to mind are "moving forward!". Moving forward despite the amicable dissolution of Regent Park Focus' decade-long relationship with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). During these years CAMH served as the trustee for our funds from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Unfortunately that funding came to an end in 2011 when the Ministry ended the Focus Community Program.

While the loss of a significant funding source and the end of our formal relationship with CAMH might have lead many to suspend development plans and scale back operations, under the bold leadership of the Board of Directors, Regent Park Focus continued to press on with its strategic vision launching a fully equipped 24 hour Internet Radio Station (known as Radio Regent) and building a state of the art television station, thus setting the stage for a 2013 launch of Regent Park TV. Regent Park TV is a closed circuit television channel serving the Regent Park Area and is meant to serve and mentor youth interested in video and television broadcasting.

That's not all!

In 2012, Regent Park Focus acquired an administrative office in Daniels Spectrum, a community cultural hub in Regent Park that is home to many arts-based and community focused organizations, and with the help of employment grants, hired much needed administrative and program support staff.

Much of what Regent Park Focus has been able to accomplish in 2012 is due to the continued support of the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council and our newest development partners, The Daniels Corporation and Rogers Communications. While it might be too early to say whether Regent Park Focus is out of the woods in terms of recovering from the loss of annual Ministry Funding, it is clear that we are moving forward in our efforts to better serve young people and community members in Regent Park.

Adonis Huggins  
**Executive Director**  
Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre

**Adonis Huggins**  
executive director



# Haroldene Peters

board president

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors I'd like to thank everyone who invests the time, attention, passion, energy and resources that make it possible to have such an empowering youth supportive agency as what you'll find at Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre.

The experiences that youth are so willing to share provide us with a window to a social culture which has different understandings, value recognitions, identity expressions and visionary expectations from the once upon a time of what was but is no longer relevant or meaningful to them.

Although we can insistently proclaim that the young people of today are our future, how often do we back that up by giving them the opportunity, trust and power to decide what that future will be?

Regent Park Focus has built an alternative media bridge to ensure youth participation in matters that affect their lives and gives them an opportunity to be valued contributors to the arts.

Regent Park Focus provides an outlet for creativity and offers opportunities to learn new and transferable skills. We offer respect to young people by providing meaningful opportunities that allow their voices to be heard and show our appreciation for their insightful capacity to identify issues of importance by providing them with the tools they need to communicate.

Haroldene (Deany) Peters  
President  
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.

# Staff & Volunteers

## BOARD MEMBERS

Deany Peters (President, Chair)  
Wallo Plummer (Past-President)  
Shiren Van Cooten (Treasurer)  
Paul Weitzmann (Secretary)  
Manual Gitterman (Stakeholder-CAMH)  
Joe Stapleton (Stakeholder – George Brown)  
Ruhul Miah (Youth Intern)  
Shadman Rahman (Youth Intern)  
Barbara Steep  
Cyrus Sundar-Singh  
Heidi Overhill  
Ian Esquivel  
Joe Stapleton  
Neel Joshi  
Sam Lao  
William Kuan  
Barbara Steepe (CAMH Consultant)

## FULL & PART-TIME STAFF

Abduljewad Ouber  
Adaku Huggins-Warner  
Adonis Huggins  
Amil Delic  
Ehsan Rahmanian  
Emmanuel Kedini  
Isaac Mbikay  
Jeriel Zbarte  
Joanne Bear  
Katsufumi Fukuda  
Kerry Ambrose  
Nedda Rahim  
Pat Whittaker  
Tresvonne Rose-Wilson  
Tyrone MacLean-Wilson

## STUDENTS VOLUNTEERS

Brian Bigioni  
Bronwyn Gillies  
Cindy Gouvera  
Hani Afrah  
James Chan  
Melanie Roy  
Paige Moulton  
Terezza Mujuzi

On November 20, 1989, the Provincial Government announced a plan to achieve healthy and safe communities in Ontario and selected nine neighbourhoods to receive multi-year funding, including Regent Park.

In 1995, Regent Park Focus produced two 27-minute television segments on Rogers Cable 10 (Toronto); one show was awarded **Best Produced Show** and was selected for national coast-to-coast airing AND Received the **Mayor's Task Force on Drugs Peer Education Award**.

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)

Adonis Huggins, Executive Director of Regent Park Focus is 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"

Regent Park Focus was awarded the **2007 Mayor's Community Safety Award** and was profiled in "Shooting for Change", an independent documentary about Regent Park Focus, broadcast on Bravo and Omni TV.

Ontario Ministry of Health ends core funding. Regent Park Focus departs from CAMH and reincorporates as a not-for-profit organization

Regent Park Focus relocated to its new home at the City owned and operated facility at **38 Regent Street**.

Regent Park Focus launched **Radio Regent**

RPTV: Construction began on Regent Park Focus' **new state-of-the-art television broadcast facility** through funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Rogers Communications.

**1990**  
Regent Park Focus is established

In 1993, Regent Park Focus obtained its status as a registered charity and began using media arts as a means of intervention.

**1995**  
Regent Park Focus becomes Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre

In 1996, Regent Park Focus was presented with the **Addiction Research Foundation's Innovative Prevention Program Award**.

*In 2002, Regent Park Focus received designation as an*

**"Exemplary Canadian**

**Program"** by Health

*Canada in preventing substance abuse problems among young people.*

**2001**  
In 2001, Regent Park Focus was awarded first place in the 2001 **CBC National Sound Scapes Competition**.

**2003**  
Regent Park Focus received the **City of Toronto Mayor's Community Safety Award** for Violence Prevention.

**2009**  
Regent Park Focus became an organizational client of the **Toronto Arts Council**.

**2011**  
Regent Park Focus became an Operating client of the **Ontario Arts Council**.

**2013**

# Core Programs

April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

## Regent Park TV

Regent Park TV is a year-round video production program where youth meet weekly to learn about video production. Filming and editing activities are carried out throughout the week and on weekends; youth-created programming includes short dramas, documentaries, news shows, public service announcements and Super8 films. The videos are available for viewing on our YouTube channel and also exhibited at various film festivals around the City.



## Radio Regent

Launched on January 1, 2011, Radio Regent is a 24-hour internet radio station meant to give a voice to the local community 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. Young people with an interest in broadcast radio are especially encouraged to get involved in Catch da Flava Youth Radio.



## The Focus House Band

The 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. The Focus band serves as the house band for The Jam and is regularly called upon to provide back-up to other artists and appear in various events and festivals around the community.

## Radio Regent's The Jam

The Jam (Formerly Last Fridays) is a free monthly community music and performance exhibit, showcasing artists from Regent Park and the City of Toronto. It regularly features the Regent Park Focus House Band, dance performances, singer song-writers and musicians.



## Diva Girls Young Women's Group

A pre-teen girls group that meets weekly at Regent Park Focus throughout the school year meant to nurture an interest in the media arts among young women and give them a safe place to engage in a variety of fun, social, artistic and educational activities.



## The Focus New Media Lab

The Focus New Media Lab offers young people, aged 12-22, free access to internet-linked iMac computers and a weekly instructional program combining art and technology. The program operates 3 days a week; youth involved in programming engage in a variety of activities including comic art, graphic arts and poster production.

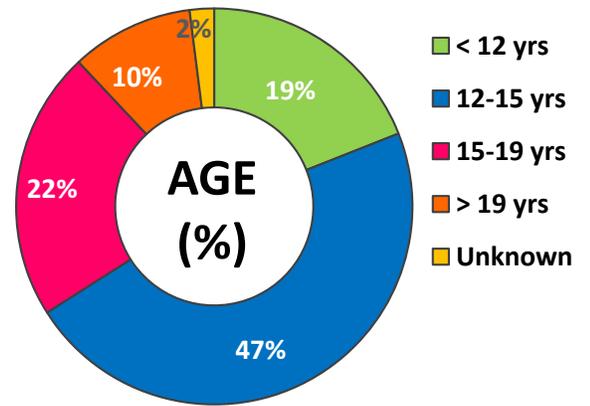
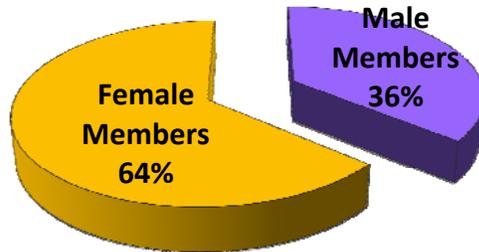
## Multi-Media Summer Arts Program

A full-day program offered free during the months of July and August that targets youth aged 12-22. Youth participants in the program learn basic production skills in music recording, photography, audio arts and video production.

# 2012 THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

April 1, 2012-March 31, 2013

## YOUTH SERVED



## OUTREACH

|                                    | # of participants: |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Attending workshops                | 5,833              |
| Community Outreach                 | 3,315              |
| Enquiries (telephone and internet) | 7,865              |
| <b>TOTAL OUTREACH</b>              | <b>17,013</b>      |

## socialMEDIA

### Website Visits

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Regent Park Focus | 10,474 |
| Radio Regent      | 16,497 |
| RPTV              | 1,674  |
| YOUTUB E Channel  | 22,985 |

### BLOG Visits

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Regent Park Focus | 1,295 |
|-------------------|-------|

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Twitter Followers | 1,609 |
| Facebook Likes    | 612   |

socialMEDIA contacts **55,146**

## PLACE OF BIRTH:

64% in CANADA



36% outside of CANADA

## ACADEMIC STATUS

students non-students

93% 7%

## YOUTH IN ATTENDANCE

5833

AT WORKSHOPS

15

Staff

52

Radio Programmers

118

Registered Youth Members

8 VOLUNTEERS

# SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| TOTAL EXPENSES(\$)  |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Salaries & Benefits | \$212,558 |
| General Supplies    | \$ 8,232  |
| Rent                | \$ 36,355 |
| Professional Fees   | \$ 12,249 |
| Travel              | \$ 1,637  |
| Equipment           | \$181,282 |
| Service Contracts   | \$ 3,304  |
| Office Supplies     | \$ 1,275  |
| Fees & Charges      | \$ 7,498  |

| FINANCIAL POSITION (\$) <i>March 31, 2013</i>    |           |
|--|-----------|
| Grants & Donations                               | \$514,566 |
| Expenditures                                     | \$464,390 |
| Excess of Revenue over Expenditures (deficiency) | \$ 50,176 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets                          |           |
| Beginning of Year                                | \$ 15,175 |
| End of Year                                      | \$ 65,351 |

# THANK YOU

## GRANTS & DONATIONS

April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

### TO OUR SPONSORS

- ❖ City of Toronto
- ❖ Dixon Hall
- ❖ Don District Training Programme Inc.
- ❖ ETFO Humanity Funds
- ❖ Government of Canada
- ❖ Hivewire Inc.
- ❖ Limestone District School Board
- ❖ Macleanna Jaunkalns Miller Architects Ltd.
- ❖ Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training
- ❖ Ontario Arts Council
- ❖ Popular Education & Research Catalyst
- ❖ Rogers Communications
- ❖ The Career Foundation
- ❖ Tides Canada Initiative Society
- ❖ Toronto Artscape Inc.
- ❖ Toronto Arts Council
- ❖ University of Toronto -Multi-faith Centre

### TO OUR PARTNERS



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

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