List of Grant Recipients for Winter 2019

Art Connections Program, City of Toronto - “What We Take” Small Group Juried Art Exhibition

“What We Take” is a juried small group exhibition that explores themes of displacement, migration, and home and will exhibit the work of 8 emerging immigrant and youth artists. The exhibit will open at the John B. Aird Gallery (900 Bay St.) from February 26 to March 22, 2019 and is in collaboration with the City of Toronto’s Art Connections program.

ArtHeart Community Art Centre - Combating Social Isolation in the Regent Park Community in Collaboration with ArtHeart Community Art Centre

ArtHeart is a community art centre delivering free and non-denominational visual art programming in Regent Park. We collaborate with ArtHeart as part of a community-based service learning project, involving the creation of an infographic to expand outreach on ArtHeart’s existing programming to community partners who could benefit from these services. We are also focused on leveraging existing infrastructure at ArtHeart to offer novel programming in the realm of art therapy.

Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre - CAUSE Tutoring Toronto Chapter

CAUSE Tutoring is improving access to education at the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre by providing free one-on-one tutoring to at-risk folks from diverse backgrounds in our community. We take bright, motivated U of T students to the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre to tutor bright, motivated, at-risk community members in whatever subjects they desire, in order to help them achieve their learning goals, and foster community inclusion.

Christie Refugee Welcome Centre - Walking and Touring Group for Refugee Wellness

Walking and Touring Group for Refugee Wellness is a project dedicated to supporting social integration and active living for refugee families. Inspired by the success of weekly walking activities, a new project formed that focuses on residents exploring their neighbourhoods as well as connecting with others. We plan to lead tours in various locations in the city as a way to support familiarization and to provide an opportunity for shelter residents to build a community.
CONTACT Photography Festival - Salam from Niagara Falls

Salam from Niagara Falls takes up first and second generation Iranian and Afghan placemaking in the context of ongoing settler colonialism in Canada. Family photographs at Niagara Falls are a staple in many migrant/refugee homes, often evoking newfound relationships to belonging in Canada. Through photography, the artists rethink nostalgia associated with Canada as “a nation of immigrants”, drawing from personal archives to share acknowledgments of Indigenous land and presence.

Kensington Health Centre - Art with Seniors

The Art with Seniors project aims to engage students with members of the Kensington Health Centre. This project intends to create a large scale art mural comprised of individual pieces of art made by older adults from the Kensington Health Centre. Students will assist in the creation of art pieces while fostering relationships with members at the centre.

Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project Community Health Centre (LAMP CHC) - The Lakeshore Affordable Housing Youth Round Table

The Lakeshore Affordable Housing Youth Roundtable is a youth-led community development initiative addressing access to affordable housing for youth and other vulnerable community members. The round table prioritizes a youth voice in the creation of affordable housing strategies and innovative housing solutions within the local community, while offering a safe space for youth to reflect on barriers to housing access for diverse youth. Through networking and consultation with various community stakeholders, youth receive leadership development resources, academic, and employment opportunities.

Lead with Dignity - Identifying challenges underprivileged youth face in finding a sustainable source of income

This pilot project aims to understand the challenges of youth who have gone through homelessness, mental health or addictions problems in the following areas: finding employment; the type of training necessary to land a good job; and if they interested in starting their own small businesses. Once data is being collected and analyzed a workshop will be conducted in which youth from challenged backgrounds; youth workers and youth employment managers from youth shelters who have been involved in supporting youth employment, and other industry employers will be invited. The aim of this workshop is to co-design a supportive program for youth employment that best address their needs while including their voice in the design process.

March of Dimes - Primary Stroke Prevention: Comparison of Information Sharing Preferences of At-risk Patients with Family Physicians’ Practices

This study will investigate the current stroke knowledge in GTA family physicians and gaps in communication to at-risk patients. Stroke survivors and non-stroke patients with risk factors (hypertension, dyslipidemia, atrial fibrillation) will participate in focus groups and quantitative surveys. Outcomes of this study will facilitate the development of best practices for improving dialogue between family physicians and patients on primary stroke prevention and increase stroke awareness in the community.
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<th><strong>Musical Minds Community Outreach</strong></th>
<th><strong>Regent Park Community Food Centre - Community Garden Children’s Book</strong></th>
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<td>Musical Minds Community Outreach is a student-driven organization at the University of Toronto that offers free music lessons to kids and youth in the Toronto community who may not have the means or opportunity to learn music. Many of our kids come from at-risk communities, and have backgrounds of adversity, poverty, refugee/newcomer status or history of violence/abuse. They are paired 1:1 with volunteer student instructors for youth-to-youth mentorship through accessible music education.</td>
<td>Six University of Toronto students from a variety of disciplines and years of study worked in a team, with the support and guidance of their community partner, to design, create, illustrate and publish a children’s book, which is titled “Sally’s Community Garden”.</td>
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<th><strong>The Muslim Chaplaincy of Toronto - The Women’s Winter Retreat</strong></th>
<th><strong>Regent Park Focus - Multi-Media Solidarity Project (Youth Script and Video Production)</strong></th>
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<td>A weekend long retreat for Muslim women students, during family day weekend to spend time in reflection, worship and sisterly bonding in the Canadian winter wonderland. The objectives of the retreat is to provide space for Muslim women students: to share the triumphs and trails of being a Muslim woman, to strengthen faith through sisterhood, to grow in faith by learning and being with our teachers.</td>
<td>The project aims to engage diverse voices of both students and community leaders through participatory media (interviews, radio productions, and more). Through this unique trifecta, Regent Park Focus plans to provide volunteers and the community members with the tools they need to produce broadcast media and encourage them to use these tools to share their own opinions, experiences, thoughts, and ideas about what it means to live in community, not only in the neighborhood of Regent Park but also as a global citizen.</td>
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<th><strong>The Neighbourhood Group/Neighbourhood Link - Community Dinner</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sister Writes - SFC x Sister Writes - Zine Launch</strong></th>
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<td>The community dinner is an open invitation to anyone in the neighbourhood to enjoy a home-cooked meal. Since 1996, Neighbourhood Link been providing a free dinner every week at 10 Gower St. They see approximately 100+ guests (individuals, seniors, homeless, single parents, marginally houses, etc.) each week and currently they are experiencing a steady increase of people attending. The students supported the Thursday dinner with set-up, food prep, serving food, and cleanup.</td>
<td>Students For Change follows up on their previous event Sister Writes Workshop - which was a creative writing workshop, with a Zine Launch where students and community members submit writing, poetry, art, design, and photography that present the role of intersectional feminism in their lives and/or community for publication in a social justice Zine.</td>
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St. Jamestown Community Centre – Community Corner

The funds will expand upon the services offered at the Community Corner by enabling outreach endeavours. The funds will be allocated to printing flyers, encouraging members of the community to interact with participants (ex. hot chocolate as an incentive to stop and talk) in order to receive information about the services offered at the Community Corner. The funds will also go towards preparing/painting a new space that the Community Corner will have acquired, which is designated to act as a place where members of the community can go to learn how to use and borrow tools such as a sewing machine, home repair tools, and cooking tools.

York Region Muslims - Acceptance of Migrants and Refugees in Canada: “From Syria To Hope” World Premiere and Panel Discussion

Our event entitled ‘Acceptance of Migrants and Refugees in Canada: ‘From Syria To Hope’ World Premiere and Panel Discussion” will include the screening of a short documentary made by a student from the University of Toronto. After the screening will be a panel discussion that will answer questions about how to practice and encourage meaningful acceptance and move beyond mere tolerance.