

# ANNUAL REPORT 2010



**LAIDLAW**  
FOUNDATION



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



*This year Laidlaw embarked on an evaluation of its progress in implementing and attaining the goals and objectives set out in its Strategic Plan. Overall I am very pleased with the results as described in more detail in the Executive Director's Report. From the Board perspective we are amazed at the results obtained and the capacity of our small staff to accomplish a monumental amount of work resulting in great positive impact on our grantees, partners and policy-makers.*

*There are two items I would like to highlight from this past year.*

*The first is our Most Significant Change program which started off as a qualitative evaluation exercise, but which now has the possibility of blossoming into a much bigger role including a research project and a vehicle for the communication and dissemination of ideas and learning from our grant-making activities. Through MSC we are learning about the positive impacts of our activities from the points of view of individuals, organizations and extra-organizational players. MSC involves gathering "stories" from grantees and parties they interact with telling us of the most significant change resulting from their relationship with Laidlaw Foundation. The openness, content, tone and freeform of these*

*stories gives us an amazingly tangible and tactile feedback that we simply cannot derive from our typical grant reports and quantitative evaluations. One significant revelation for Laidlaw as a foundation that was repeated throughout many of the stories is that the way we encourage, coach and support our grantees is probably as important to them as are our dollars.*

*The second highlight is in our investment area. Previously I had reported that Laidlaw was educating itself about socially responsible investing. Although this concept may sound simple, it is a very involved and a complex topic. In order to grapple with this field, Laidlaw created a Socially Responsible Investing subcommittee to dig deeper and help Laidlaw move forward from a learning mode into an action mode. The SRI committee is actively exploring mission-based and impact investing, ethical funds and re-evaluating how all of this should fit with our current use of negative screens. One action that I am extremely pleased to announce is that Laidlaw is participating in the core shareholder engagement services provided by the Shareholder Association for Research and Education (SHARE), which consist of actively engaging with selected corporations to change their behavior for the better. Negative screens are useful and important in many contexts, but ultimately it comes down to saying to an offending corporation, "We don't like what you are doing so we are walking". By selling the shares of the offending corporation we wash our hands of the taint, but we would be leaving that corporation to continue with its current bad behavior. In contrast, SHARE pools the resources of its clients*

*and then takes positive action to meet with senior management of the selected corporations with a view to try to change the offending behavior of the corporation. SHARE is active in the areas of climate change, oil sands, human rights, forced labour, child labour, precarious employment, sustainability reporting and other governance issues. It is important to note that SHARE activities are not an obstacle to any other type of SRI/ESG policy or action Laidlaw may also embrace in the future. Taking a measured, thoughtful, proactive role in driving change for the better aligns with what I believe are Laidlaw's foundational principles underpinning our vision, mission and core values.*

*This year's AGM marks the 6th year of my involvement with the Laidlaw Foundation and sadly for me the end of my governance relationship with Laidlaw. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with and being challenged by Ana, Denis, Merle, Susan, Violetta and all of the wonderful board members I have met throughout those years. I have learned an immense amount about philanthropy and social justice and will forever be indebted to Laidlaw for a fulfilling, challenging and ultimately rewarding experience. I especially want to thank Nathan for his guidance and counsel to me and for his unfailing and absolute devotion to the Laidlaw Foundation.*

*I know Laidlaw will continue to be a leader and that it is in good hands and in parting I will not say goodbye, but rather, see you later.*

*Brian Chu, President*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



2010 marked the mid-point of the Foundation's 5-year strategic plan. The plan focuses all of the Foundation's resources on increasing opportunities for meaningful and inclusive youth engagement. Independent consultant David MacCoy of First Leadership Limited was engaged to provide the Foundation's Board and staff with a formative evaluation of our 2008-2013 strategic/operational plan. The Foundation's Theory of Change was a starting point to assess the extent to which the implementation has progressed at the plan's mid-point.

For the purposes of the evaluation the key question are:

*To what extent have the Laidlaw Foundation's efforts contributed to outcomes that have increased opportunities for meaningful and inclusive youth engagement?*

*What impact has this had on:*

- a) Young people and the capacity of their organizations?
- b) Other organizations, communities?
- c) The development of positive pro-social youth development policy?
- d) Laidlaw's efforts to attract other organizations to become engaged in positive youth development activities?

Perspectives were obtained from external sources, grant recipients, members of community organizations, board and staff members of the Foundation as well as a review of relevant documents and observation of funded initiatives. Overall, the findings revealed that the Foundation has been very effective in implementing the plan through its granting programs and staff activities. It has successfully strengthened youth-led initiatives and built organizational capacity of youth-led groups supported by intermediary organizations. It has taken important steps to influence and affect social policy on youth matters and made inroads into shifting organizations to better engage youth in decision-making. Progress has been steady and these initiatives are at an appropriate stage for this point in the implementation. During the first three years the focus has been on "doing" and demonstrating by example. There has been a limited focus on formally capturing learning and transferring the knowledge broadly to influence other organizations and the community. Some partners want to learn how to work in the "Laidlaw way"

### THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE (MSC) EVALUATION RESEARCH TECHNIQUE

The Foundation adopted MSC in 2010 as part of its overall evaluative framework. MSC is essentially a process that involves the collection of significant change stories at the field level and the selection of the most significant of these stories by panels of stakeholders or staff. It offers an

approach that searches for and captures project impact.

Staff conducted in depth one-on-one interviews with 10 grantee organizations (46 individuals). The interviews were recorded and transcribed. Those interviewed included the project founder, one or more project staff or volunteer, and one or more community stakeholders. Respondents were asked to identify and describe the most significant change that they themselves experienced the observed changes within their organizations or groups, to the project participants and to their broader community and networks.

The consultant felt strongly that the MSC stories offer compelling data about the processes and evidence on change and development. The interviews are currently being coded to capture recurrent themes and identify potential gaps. There is an opportunity to document the effects of experiential learning, the potential of mentoring, organizational skill building, systems change, increased community awareness and acceptance, and the creation of new community networks.

He also found that the knowledge demonstrated by Laidlaw is desired by others for several reasons:

- People want to be convinced that a particular course of action works.



- People want to understand that the steps or processes used can be learned and replicated. In this case, how they demonstrate inclusive youth engagement and positive youth development.
- They want to have solid ground to convince others of the appropriateness and value of going in a particular chosen direction. They want to reduce the risk that might be involved in asking their organization and others to direct public funds or change policies or commit to actions.
- To leverage the support of others to the cause, they want at least reasonably solid ground or evidence to back up their requests.

The Most Significant Change stories are a “gold mine” providing compelling qualitative data about the process young people learn with Laidlaw support. The time has been reached for capturing more learning from initiatives and sharing them with others to influence positive youth development policy.

The following recommendations were presented to the Foundation’s Board in December 2010:

1. Knowledge Harvesting: “Refine the Learning from Foundation Initiatives”
  - Create a plan for ongoing knowledge capture.

2. Knowledge Sharing: “Strategy and Channels”

- Develop channels for knowledge sharing.
- Create an action plan for sharing knowledge.

3. “Hold the Course and Refine the Indicators”

- Develop new indicators to assist in tracking progress on plan implementation.

4. Resources: “Add Resource Capacity”

- Add staff capacity for knowledge capture and transfer.
- Add staff capacity through internships or part-time staff
- Enhance team functioning to ensure shared ownership of all initiatives.

#### INFLUENCING POLICY: A PROGRESS REPORT

I continue to serve as a co-chair of Ontario Youth Matters! (OYM), a provincial campaign focused on working with the Government of Ontario to develop a coordinated, outcomes-based youth policy framework. In January 2010 the Ministry of Children & Youth Services released draft terms of reference for the development of a youth policy framework. Young people from across Ontario were recruited to serve on a Youth Development Committee (YDC) and 13 research papers were commissioned to provide input on developmental trajectories for pre-adolescents, adolescents and young adults across 5 developmental domains: physical, cognitive, emotional, social and spiritual. OYM! funding has come from the United Ways of Ontario, the United Way of Toronto and the Laidlaw Foundation.

I was invited by Ministry staff to join the selection committee for the appointment of the 25 Youth who

would bring their lived experience to the Youth Development Committee and regularly consult with Ministry staff associated with this project.

In 2010 The Foundation published Not So Easy to Navigate, the result of a commissioned policy research and advocacy project. John Stapleton and Anne Tweddle produced three related papers that identify ways to link and leverage various federal and provincial income security entitlements to maximize RESP benefits for children and youth in care. The Government of BC is exploring the introduction of new legislation and the Child Welfare League of Canada has received federal funding support to work with the provinces to explore implementation. Copies of the guidebook have been circulated through the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies and the Toronto Children’s Aid Society.

It also published Ground Floors: Building Youth Organizing Platforms. The core questions guiding this research are:

- How can funders, social service organizations, communities, policy makers and youth organizers better support self-generative and responsible youth organizing?
- What are the opportunities to develop alternative organizational models, options and approaches?

Project partners were TIDES Canada, Laidlaw Foundation, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Schools without Borders (SWB)



#### NOTE OF APPRECIATION:

*The Laidlaw Foundation staff is action oriented, values driven and willing to use its skills to benefit young people, their groups and organizations, and the community in general. They work for change and are driven by the beliefs and values of the Foundation that have evolved over many years. They understand that their relationships and mutual trust with young people have been at the core of the change process. They take risks and support projects that may not work out as anticipated. Staff is never reckless. They are supported in taking these risks by the Laidlaw Foundation's directors and advisors. My thanks to my colleagues Merle Young, Violetta Ilkiw, Denis Lefebvre, Susan Brand, Ana Skinner and Shahina Sayani*

## TRIBUTES

### Brian Chu

*Brian Chu will be completing his second three year term on the Board of Directors. For the past three years Brian served as Foundation President. He brought his well honed skills in board governance and policy review.*

*Under Brian's leadership he, Phillip Haid (Past Board President), the late Lyn Apgar and staff drafted the Foundation's current 5-year 2008-2012 strategic plan.*

*Brian was active in all aspects of the Foundation's work, reviewing grant applications as a member of the Youth Organizing Advisory Committee, as a member of the Finance-Audit Committee, the Investment Committee, and Socially Responsible Program Related Investment Committee. Brian cares deeply about the Foundation's work.*

### Helena Shimeles

*Helena is leaving the Board at the completion of her three-year term this June. While on the Board she served on the Youth Organizing Program Advisory Committee and the Most Significant Change (MSC) Advisory Committee. Helena is co-Founder and former Executive Director of Young Diplomats, a dynamic youth-led organization that provides resources, service and support to Ethiopian youth in Toronto. In the past two years, Helena has pioneered a model for leadership succession in a youth-led organization. She has completed a Masters of Environmental Studies at York University. She is the Research Coordinator at the African & Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario*

## IN MEMORIUM

### John Hodgson

*John Hodgson passed away this past January. John was senior partner at Blakes, LLP.*

*Throughout his professional career he made significant contributions in the areas of taxation, wills and trusts. He was a leader in the field. He served on the Board of the Laidlaw Foundation for 22 years (1962-1984) and was co-founder and the first President of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, now known as Imagine Canada. He assisted the Centre with the re-establishment and funding of the library, later named the John Hodgson Library. With the Honourable Bertha Wilson, John established the Philanthropist Journal.*

## YOUTH ORGANIZING PROGRAM



Reflecting on the past few years of Youth Organizing program, we can see vibrant clusters of youth-led groups and youth-driven intergenerational initiatives<sup>1</sup> that work within, against and around institutions and systems that directly shape community health and well-being. These groups illustrate how young people are with urgency creating safe, empowering opportunities for their peers and families in the face of systems that are not drastically or rapidly changing. As the Foundation moves forward in its strategies, the focus continues to be on how to amplify and accelerate this work.

The Foundation is heavily invested in supporting collaborative change processes driven by the lived experiences of young people. Through our granting and partnership activities, we focus on youth-led processes knowing that this leads to significant effects on the young people involved, the communities in which they live and work, and on society as a whole. The ends the Foundation is working towards are healthier young people, yes, but deeper

<sup>1</sup> Youth-led intergenerational initiatives are collaborative initiatives that are grounded in and draw their mandate from the experiences and priorities of young people

than impacting any one demographic, the Foundation is striving for a fundamentally inclusive society.

A key measure the Foundation uses to gauge social inclusion is how meaningfully institutions and decision-making processes incorporate the experiences, priorities and ideas of young people in addressing issues that impact their lives. The focus here is not on whether young people are engaged (which looking over the course of our partnerships, it is clear that they are), but on whether social institutions and decision making processes are taking cues from the knowledge, priorities and lived experiences of young people.

Each YO and YSI grant and partnership speaks to ways in which a group of young people are intervening in the world to change it. On the one hand, what is revealed to us through this work are realities of young people and communities that are often ignored, experiences that are tokenized or entire segments of our society and communities that are written off. On the other hand, what is also revealed to us through this work are key interventions into various systems by young people and communities to change the material conditions in which people live.

*Peer-based models: lived experiences in action*  
YO supported 20 youth-led initiatives in 2010. The priorities being identified and addressed include the need for supports for young people in remand; alternative models for supporting young people facing homelessness and addictions; developing empowering education spaces; and supporting personal

and community growth through artistic expression. These initiatives illustrate the systems that young people are working to change and pragmatic ways in which they are creating alternative opportunities for their peers and communities now. For example:

Since 2009 the Foundation has been supporting Amadeusz, a grassroots youth-led group that is working with young people in remand in various detention centres in Toronto to support educational and GED attainment. These are young people that have not been convicted, are in limbo awaiting trial for months, and find themselves removed from education systems and community supports. Amadeusz is developing a peer-based model for ensuring that young people in remand can access an education

In 2010, the Foundation began supporting the Fresh Collective, a group of young people with lived experiences with homelessness and addictions, to develop a peer-based model for supporting other young people facing these challenges. Fresh Collective is working with different service providers to illustrate the challenges with current interventions into the lives of young people and to develop alternatives

*A brief description of each YO grantee is in the latter part of this report. These teasers give but a glimpse into the significant work these groups are doing. Consider each one of these projects an entry point into personal and collective learning. In each one of these groups, you may find yourself exposed to realities and experiences of young people that push your assumptions and illuminate the urgency of this work.*





## YOUTH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM



The strategic partnerships and funding efforts of the Youth Social Infrastructure Program builds and supports the experiential and activist work of young people in communities – in short, it grounds the work of the youth we support in our Youth Organizing Program.

### YSI strategic investments

The Youth Social Infrastructure strategy has developed numerous partners, both grantees and relevant collaborators. These partnerships exist to support, share and learn with intermediary groups and platforms that strengthen and provide supports to youth-led groups. YSI has made 8 multi-year grants over the past 2 years to intermediaries that have provided a variety of services and supports to youth and youth-led initiatives. These supports include administrative platforms, networking, capacity training and development, anti-oppression/ social inclusion/ diversity assessments and policy development, trauma counseling and non-violence training, mentoring, space and funding access. These groups are active in defining what YSI looks like in practice.

The YSI program has provided strategic investments to build

stronger intermediary and network supports through new grants to the People Project and the Girls Action Foundation's work in Toronto. The program also continued to support the dynamic work of the Grassroots Youth Collaborative and Sketch for a second year and Schools without Borders for a third year of core capacity funding. ArtReach Toronto will continue to be supported administratively until at least 2012, as the initiative transitions from the Funder Collaborative model to a more independent structure.

As the YSI strategy has continued to develop, clarity has emerged in the way our Youth Organizing (YO) and YSI programs feed and fuel one another. YSI strategies often are revealed from conversations with YO partners and advisors. There is a clear relationship between the platform groups we support through YSI and the capacity needs identified by YO groups. For example, Schools without Borders is the administrative platform to numerous YO grantees; the People Project provides anti-oppression/ diversity training and consultation to numerous YO grantees and YSI partners. Ongoing conversations with YO grantees lead to identification of potential future YSI platforms. These relationships reinforce that YSI's main function is not as a grant stream, but to act as an intermediary that responds to and innovates solutions to issues and opportunities identified through YO.

The aligned focus of our strategic investments has allowed deep investments rather than broad based responsive granting. It

bears repeating that creating the conditions to support collective leadership and to build sustained infrastructure supports requires long term investment. Within the YSI platforms, the relationships with the Foundation are unique and continue to deepen over time. Several YSI groups are undergoing significant leadership transitions, but have been supported to do this collectively, through the functioning of the YSI collaborative and YSI Advisory committee. Ultimately, once their transition process is wrapped, strategies and priorities for these groups may change – as they should as youth and community define what their needs are at any given time. It is feasible to assume that we won't expect a sudden influx of new YSI platforms; rather we can expect a refinement in strategies and an increase in collective learning.

What we have learned with our YSI partners has been rich and in the coming year we intend to harvest this learning more actively. Most of the groups we are working with are being actively supported to develop and implement strategic and succession plans that embed youth renewal into their core operations. An immense opportunity exists to analyse and disseminate the learning from this work beyond the youth sector and to share it with the broader nonprofit sector.



### YSI Collaborative

A significant innovative and emergent initiative that has gained momentum is the YSI collaborative <<http://www.youthsi.org/index.html>>. The YSI Collaborative, a movement started in partnership with the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Tides Initiatives Canada, and more recently the active interest of the J. W. McConnell Foundation, links the efforts of young people and adults working to support youth engagement and youth organizing in their communities or regions. The YSI collaborative amplifies and accelerates the innovative community change work happening across the province through self-identification within a community of practice.

The Foundation took the lead in organizing Taking Participatory Leadership to Scale training in November 2010 with international facilitators and community activists who are experienced in the “Art of Hosting”. This training opportunity brought cutting edge thinking, theory and practice to the YSI collaborative and the funding and nonprofit sectors more broadly and helped build local expertise in the methods used in “Art of Hosting”.

### Other Funder Collaboratives

The Foundation participates at a number of sectoral network tables and has shared its learning and unique perspective to the sectoral work lead by the HR Council and the development of a provincial labour force framework lead by the HR Council and The Ontario Nonprofit Network. We participate in the Blueprint Group, a network of funders collaborating and acting on funding processes and sectoral priorities. In most of these cases, youth and youth-led organizations are underrepresented or misrepresented. We are able to carve out a space at these tables that brings youth experiences in the nonprofit sector and innovative perspective into the conversation.



## 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS & STAFF

### Board

Brian Chu  
 Liban Abokor  
 Jen Apgar  
 Andrew Bedeau  
 Alina Chatterjee  
 Clive Curtis  
 Jessica Hammell  
 Julia Laidlaw  
 Mitchell Marcus  
 Lenore Richards  
 Helena Shimeles  
 Jillian Witt

### Finance Audit

Andrew Bedeau  
 Brian Chu  
 Clive Curtis  
 Ken Gibson  
 Nathan Gilbert  
 Robert Smith  
 Merle Young

### Investment

Liban Abokor  
 Andrew Bedeau  
 Brian Chu  
 Clive Curtis  
 Steve Dorey  
 Nathan Gilbert  
 Heather A. T. Hunter  
 Edward J. Kwan  
 Jillian Witt  
 Merle Young

### Youth Organizing

Liban Abokor  
 Victor Beausoleil  
 Brian Chu  
 Anique Jordan  
 Mitchell Marcus  
 Amber Morley  
 Gavin Sheppard  
 Helena Shimeles  
 Amaree Watkis  
 Assaf Weisz  
 Asha Yusaf

### Youth Social Infrastructure

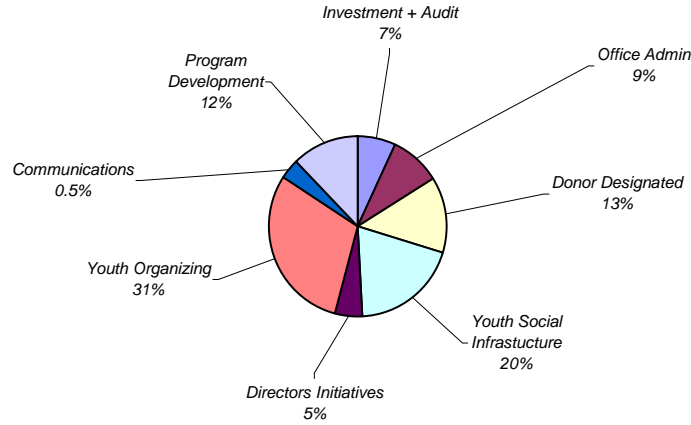
Jen Apgar  
 Dev Aujla  
 Alina Chatterjee  
 Brian Chu  
 Arti Freeman  
 Chris Kang  
 Hanifa Kassam  
 Paulina O'Kieffe  
 Jillian Witt  
 Leslie Wright  
 Andrea Zammit

### Staff

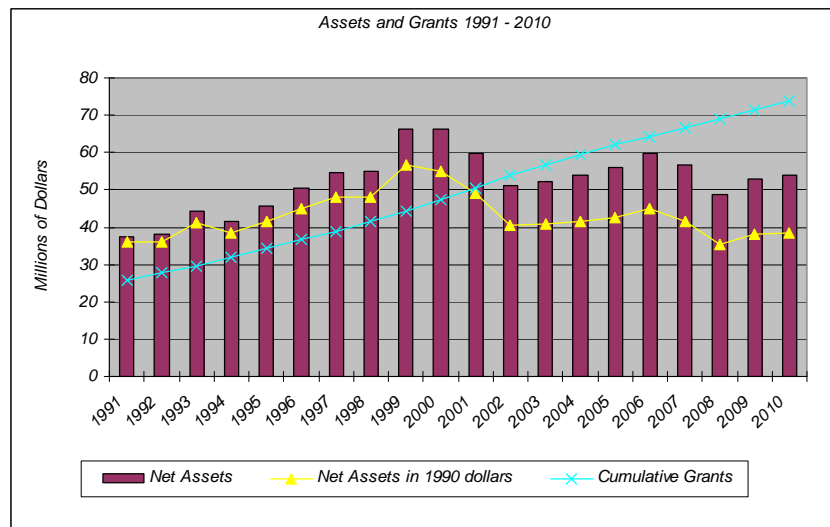
Nathan H. Gilbert, Executive Director  
 Susan Brand, Secretary  
 Violetta Ilkiw, Manager, Youth Social Infrastructure  
 Denis Lefebvre, Manager, Communications  
 Shahina Sayani, Manager, ArtReach Toronto  
 Ana Skinner, Manager, Youth Organizing  
 Merle Young, Manager, Finance and Administration

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**Expenditures 2010  
by program area**



Grants and charitable activities plus related expenses amounted to \$2.21 million  
Office administrative expenses were \$246,000



Net Assets (market value) at December 31, 2010 were \$54.0 million  
Charitable expenditures since inception amounted to \$73.8 million

Our financial statements have been audited by KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants  
Copies of the statements are available by contacting the Foundation

## SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDED INITIATIVES IN 2010

### Board of Directors Initiatives

#### Boys & Girls Club of Canada - Central Region

[www.bgccan.com](http://www.bgccan.com)

Youth ABC's (Ability to Bring Change) Initiative

A peer to peer learning model that is aimed at building the capacity of young people to act as change agents/policy advocates in their communities and at the provincial level. The initiative is focused on developing key elements of a "personal and community change" curriculum, building the capacity of participating young people to participate in policy initiatives and supporting the trained youth to host local assemblies. \$15,000.

#### For Youth Initiative

[www.foryouth.ca](http://www.foryouth.ca)

FYI Scholarship Fund

The FYI Scholarship Program was established as a memorial to mark the lives of two young men who were murdered in the area. The fund provides scholarships to youth who live in West Toronto, pursuing education at colleges, universities, trade schools and in certificate programs. \$2,000

#### Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win

[www.northsouthpartnership.com](http://www.northsouthpartnership.com)

Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win Youth Engagement Working Group North-South Partnership for Children

To hire a part-time coordinator in Year 1 to develop a Youth Engagement Working Group to create an opportunity for youth in southern Ontario to become engaged in a meaningful way with youth from northern First Nation communities. The youth work together to develop initiatives that improve the quality of life for the children and youth living in remote northern communities. \$25,000

#### Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win

[www.thirdworldcanada.ca](http://www.thirdworldcanada.ca)

Premiere screening of "3rd World Canada"

Support for the premiere screening of Andrée Cazabon's film "3rd World Canada". The film examines the conditions many Aboriginal children and youth face in remote communities in Northern Ontario. Mamow Sha-way-gikay-win is the administrative partner on this project. \$2,000

#### The Maytree Foundation

[www.diversecitytoronto.ca/diverse-city-fellow/](http://www.diversecitytoronto.ca/diverse-city-fellow/)

DiverseCity Fellow Youth Access Fund - DiverseCity Fellows Program

This investment secured the selection and participation of at least 2 young leaders from traditionally underrepresented and marginalized young people under the age of 35 in the DiverseCity Fellows Program. \$20,000

#### National Youth in Care Network

[www.youthincare.ca](http://www.youthincare.ca)

Youth In Care Canada - Ask! Listen! Believe! 2010

To enable the National Youth in Care Network to prepare a National Report Card. The policy recommendations were drawn from regional meetings held across Canada culminating in a National Conference held in Ottawa in November. The meeting was attended by youth, alumni participants and adult allies. The report identified the issues raised by youth in care. The National Report will also help guide the future work of the NYICN. \$10,000

#### Parks & Recreation Ontario

[www.prontario.org](http://www.prontario.org)

Play Works Partnership

secretariat support

To provide basic support for the Play Works Partnership Secretariat. \$2,500

#### St. Christopher House

[www.stchrishouse.org](http://www.stchrishouse.org)

Youth Voices 2011 - Greater

Toronto Civic Action Alliance

For support towards the inclusion of young people and youth voices in the 2011 Toronto City Summit.

This major regional gathering of 600+ leaders highlights challenges and opportunities facing the GTA in a period of economic recovery and renewed growth, and recommends actions towards solving the challenges and taking full advantage of opportunities. St. Christopher House is the administrative partner on this project. \$5,000

#### United Way Toronto

[www.unitedwaytoronto.com](http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com)

Models of Youth Engagement Toolkit

For a joint initiative of the Laidlaw Foundation, United Way of Greater Toronto, United Ways of Ontario & members of the Ontario Youth Matters! campaign to develop a youth engagement toolkit that includes models for engaging young people in policy/advocacy work. \$15,000

## Youth Organizing (YO) Initiatives

### **Amadeusz/ Albion Neighbourhood Services**

[www.amadeusz.ca](http://www.amadeusz.ca)

*Look at my Life Project: Da 2nd Album - Amadeusz*  
Amadeusz is a youth-developed alternative education teaching method. Through the Look at my Life Project. Amadeusz provides education programs and services to incarcerated young people in the Toronto West Detention Centre and the Roy McMurtry Youth Centre. Amadeusz provides resources and support for participants to complete their G.E.D./high school diploma; provides life skills workshops; connects each program participant with a youth worker who will visit them once per week on an ongoing basis until their release and thereafter as needed. Albion Neighbourhood Services is Amadeusz's administrative partner. \$50,000

### **Scarborough Swagg Skills/ Art Starts Neighbourhood Cultural Centre**

[www.artstarts.org](http://www.artstarts.org)

*Follow My Lead - Scarborough Swagg Skills*  
Scarborough Swagg empowers young people in Scarborough and their neighbourhoods through the elements of hip hop and break dance. Follow My Lead allows young people to gain multiple leadership skills and dance skills while positively bridging neighbourhoods across Scarborough. \$22,540

### **Bright Future Alliance**

<http://www.brightfuturealliance.ca/>

*Diamonds in the Dirt - Cooking for Change*  
Bright Future Alliance (BFA) is a grassroots youth group that empowers marginalized young people through reflective conversation, which leads to youth and community developed solutions for addressing equality, social justice, access to education as well as economic empowerment. *Diamonds in the Dirt - Cooking for Change* is a 12 month program for male youth aged 13-19. This innovative program focuses on developing a healthy body (knowledge of the body, wellness, nutrition and healthy cooking), a healthy mind (self-exploration, confidence building, development of healthy friendships/relationships and networks) and a healthy future (career exploration). \$35,960

### **Youth Arts and Entertainment Council/ Elora Centre for the Arts**

[www.eloracentreforthearts.ca](http://www.eloracentreforthearts.ca)

*Rural Youth Artists': Using the Arts to Engage Our Communities - Youth Arts and Entertainment Council*  
The Youth Arts and Entertainment Council was formed in March 2009 as a way to bring young, local artists of all mediums and forms into one spot to collaborate and share perspectives. Rural Youth Artists project is an arts-based research initiative where young artists explore their place in their rural community, present these explorations to the community in the form of a series of art shows and create a model for organized youth arts groups in rural communities. The Elora Centre for the Arts is the administrative partner on this project. \$11,825

### **Film Diaries: Her Stories/ Sistering – A Woman's Place**

<http://www.sistering.org/>

*Film Diaries: Her Stories*  
*Film Diaries: Her Stories* is a program for young women living in priority neighbourhoods in Toronto that supports them to create films that are relevant to their lives. This project creates an open and safe space for young women to come together to build life skills, self-esteem and be supported as leaders within their own community. Sistering – a Woman's Place is the administrative partner on this project. \$35,000

### **IMPACT Theatre**

[www.impacttheatre.wordpress.com/](http://www.impacttheatre.wordpress.com/)

*The Forum Experience*  
*IMPACT (Individuals Making Positive Artistic Change Together)* is a group of young people from across Toronto who share a commitment to creating positive social change in the arts. *IMPACT* is developing, organizing and presenting a series of individual forum theatre performances throughout the year in Toronto. \$16,785

### **We Will Now/Jane and Finch Community and Family Centre**

[www.wewillnow.ca/](http://www.wewillnow.ca/)

*We. Will. Now TESOL*  
*We. Will. Now TESOL* is a project that trains young people from the Toronto-area to become ESL teachers. Once trained, these youth will be supported through youth-to-youth mentoring to provide ESL programs in various low-income communities for individuals 12-18 years of age. The Jane and Finch Community and Family Centre is the administrative partner on this project. \$33,324

**Just BGRAPHIC**

[www.justbgraphic.org](http://www.justbgraphic.org)

Just BGRAPHIC Youth Arts Program brings together professional artists and youth from Jane Finch in an active engagement of learning, mentoring, fun and personal development.. Major areas of focus include computer graphics, dance, performing arts, videography and photography. This project is supporting Just BGRAPHIC to launch its dance and performing arts program. \$30,000

**South Etobicoke Youth Assembly/ Lakeshore Area Multi-Services Project Lamp Inc.**

[www.lampchc.org/seya](http://www.lampchc.org/seya)

South Etobicoke Youth Assembly  
South Etobicoke Youth Assembly is a youth-led organization that exists to continuously provide creative and innovative ways to encourage youth to reach their full potential. This project will allow SEYA to take stock of how and what SEYA has achieved and how SEYA can further capitalize on their experiences moving forward. This project will develop a workshop series including program models and training guides for youth by youth entitled "Fundamentals of Youth Led Youth Run Engagement 101". LAMP is the South Etobicoke Youth Assembly's administrative partner. \$50,000

**DoxRox/ Niagara Artists' Company**

[www.nac.org](http://www.nac.org)

Dox Rox  
DOX ROX provides opportunities for youth from underprivileged communities in the Niagara region to express opinions and experience their community in a different way. Through workshops, participants will highlight their efforts to make positive changes in their own neighbourhoods. The Niagara

Artists' Company is the administrative partner on this project. \$29,970

**Lost Lyrics/ Schools Without Borders**

[www.swb.ca](http://www.swb.ca)

The Blueprint and Original Griots - Lost Lyrics

Lost Lyrics is part of a self-determined movement rooted in the exploration of alternative education. The Blueprint and Original Griots programs work with students from the ages of 11-18 and lay the foundation for young people to understand the philosophy and principles of Lost Lyrics. Sharing a common narrative of exclusion from formal systems of education, Lost Lyrics uses their experiences as the launching pad to help develop strategies of resistance through community based education and advocacy. Schools Without Borders is Lost Lyrics' administrative partner. \$49,780

**Sound the Horn/ Schools Without Borders**

[www.swb.ca](http://www.swb.ca)

<http://www.soundthehorn.com/>  
Sound the Horn (Succession Planning)

Sound the Horn is dedicated to educating and empowering Ethiopian and Eritrean youth through the arts. STH has been activating a new generation of young leaders through its annual Selam Youth Festival; Sound the Horn leadership Program and the Selam Visual Arts Festival. This project assists with the resources to identify, research and develop a succession plan for STH. Schools without Borders is Sound the Horn's administrative partner on this project. \$5,000

**CUE Collective/ Sketch**

[www.sketch.ca](http://www.sketch.ca)

CUE Youth Artist Grants  
CUE is a youth-led funding initiative dedicated to empowering, funding and supporting arts projects coming

from disenfranchised and marginalized youth artists in the SKETCH community. CUE gives emerging artists a place to jump from, experiment with ideas and cultivate steps to further their organizing ambitions. SKETCH is CUE's administrative partner. \$50,000

**Womynation/ Sketch**

[www.womynation.blogspot.com](http://www.womynation.blogspot.com)

Womynation 2011

Womynation is a youth led arts initiative for young womyn of colour from priority neighbourhoods in Toronto that explores ideas of gender, race, class, violence and community. It uses art as a way to not only process discussions on these topics, but also navigate and wholly develop their creative selves. SKETCH is Womynation's Administrative partner. \$41,150

**Spoken-Film/ Guillermo Cabrera**

Spoken-Film

Spoken-Film creates opportunities for youth in high priority neighbourhoods in Toronto to express their personal experiences through spoken word. Spoken-Film will use film techniques to deliver their sentiments through media arts to the community as well as for the participants to see their own progress. Spoken-Film works towards building positive relationships with youth and to continue the ripple effects in communities by using art as a therapeutic tool not only for self-expression, but for healing as well. \$15,200

**Stud Magazine**

[www.thestudmagazine.com](http://www.thestudmagazine.com)

*The Stud Magazine*  
STUD magazine engages young women that identify as non-gender conforming. This initiative supports the development of STUD magazine, youth mentorship, discussion panel to receive feedback from the public and service providers and other community engagement events. \$15,000

**180 Change Street/ The Remix Project**

[www.180changestreet.com/](http://www.180changestreet.com/)

*180 Change Street - 180 Change Street*  
180 Change Street is a transitional program dedicated to inspiring positive change in youth who are incarcerated or in conflict with the law. 180 Change Street works to tackle recidivism by equipping the participants with valuable life skills in a positive atmosphere that encourages personal growth and self improvement. Remix is 180 Change Street's administrative partner. \$50,000

**The Remix Project**

<http://www.theremixproject.ca>

*The Remix Project*  
Remix supports innovate and entrepreneurial young people by providing opportunities to meet and interact in a positive, safe environment with other youth of diverse backgrounds and faiths; access training and entrepreneurial skills and supports to return to school as well as mentorship and knowledge of options to develop initiatives and become equal participants in society. This initiative supports Remix in organizational planning and development. \$50,000

**I Have a Dream/ The Scarborough Arts Council**

[www.scarborougharts.com](http://www.scarborougharts.com)

*I Have a Dream: the Dream Dance Workshops*  
"I Have A Dream" is a youth-led grassroots dance initiative that supports youth in the underserved Kingston-Galloway community. This initiative strives to open doors to a successful future in the arts. The Dream is a series of workshops that inspires and encourages exploration in the arts through focused training and creative exercises, performances, creative multimedia productions and professional artistic opportunities in the performing arts. The Scarborough Arts Council is the administrative partner on this project. \$26,735

**FRESH Collective/ Youth Action Network**

[www.youthactionnetwork.org](http://www.youthactionnetwork.org)

*FRESH Collective*  
The members of FRESH are all peers that have all experienced youth homelessness and chaotic drug use. They share a passion to make it easier for street youth interested in stabilizing their lives. This project supports FRESH to develop an advanced peer training program, train peers; conduct a demonstration project; and organize resources focusing on educational and vocational opportunities for homeless youth. The Youth Action Network is FRESH's administrative partner. \$34,770



## Youth Social Infrastructure (YSI) Initiatives

### Centre for Social Innovation

[www.socialinnovation.ca](http://www.socialinnovation.ca)

*Creating a Framework for a Labour Force Development Strategy for the Non-profit Sector in Ontario*

*This collaborative project between the Centre for Social Innovation, the Ontario Nonprofit Network and the HR Council helps inform the creation of an Ontario sectoral labour force development strategy. Similar strategies exist in BC, Alberta and Nova Scotia. This partnership project begins to address some of the emerging issues/questions in the sector: perceived leadership deficit in the non-profit sector (and poor succession planning in the sector); recruitment of new (young) & talented employees into the sector; sector salaries (low generally); and organizational competencies. Framework development includes outreach to and input from youth-run organizations in Ontario. \$5,000*

### Girls Action Foundation

[www.girlsactionfoundation.ca](http://www.girlsactionfoundation.ca)

*Girls Action YSI Capacity Building Project*

*The Girls Action Foundation (GAF; formerly PowerCamp) provides intermediary supports to a network of young women organizers and community organizations dedicated to girls' empowerment. GAF acts as a catalyst, leading and seeding girls' programs across Canada. GAF builds girls' and young women's skills and confidence and inspires action to change the world. GAF has in recent years expanded their network connections in southern Ontario.*

*This project builds a stronger GAF presence in the Greater Toronto Area to better share their resources, work more directly with emerging groups and individuals and contribute a strong gender analysis and experience linked to existing YSI initiatives in the region. \$64,000*

### Motivate Canada

[www.youthsi.org](http://www.youthsi.org)

*YSI Provincial Collaborative*

*To bring together a community of practice to build a social infrastructure that will transform, support and sustain youth organizing. The collaborative is working toward a cohesive province-wide platform for advancing and sustaining youth organizing and engagement but without the formation of another institution. The process is focused on creating space for new relationships to form intergenerational dialogue and a platform for the youth organizing and engagement field to share emerging ideas and issues leading to innovative practice. \$25,000*

### The People Project

<https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=146502407482&ref=ts>

*The People Project*  
*The People Project is a collective non-profit & social enterprise dedicated to the practice and engagement of people empowerment for social change. The group's work is based on nurturing human relationships and building a culture of values, inspiring change on a philosophical level and creating shared understanding and conditions for collective decision making. The People Project works closely with Toronto's LGBT youth community providing participatory arts and leadership programs as well as collaborating on innovative arts and advocacy projects. The People Project also allies with and supports diverse youth-led and youth serving groups and organizations in the GTA through equity consultation, strategic planning, asset mapping, evaluation and accountability measures, resource development as well as anti-oppression workshops and trainings. This investment helps the People Project strengthen their role as a key YSI intermediary group. They are working with many YO and YSI grantees to provide workshops & training, evaluation and organizational capacity building support from a diversity/equity lens. \$75,000*

### **Schools Without Borders**

[www.grassrootseyouth.ca](http://www.grassrootseyouth.ca)

Grassroots Youth Collaborative The Grassroots Youth Collaborative (GYC) supports local youth organizing in the City of the Toronto. The GYC provides opportunities for networking, capacity building and advocacy to existing and emerging grassroots youth-led organizations across the City. This investment helps strengthen the governance role of GYC in youth organizing sector; increase GYC's presence in underserved communities in the GTA; implement safe spaces and equity policies across GYC membership and organizationally; asset map projects of GYC members; and implement and manage GYC staff succession planning. SWB is GYC's administrative partner. \$81,181

### **Schools Without Borders**

[www.swb.ca](http://www.swb.ca)

Building a Youth Organizing Platform Schools Without Borders (SWB) is a unique youth-led organization that makes education and learning more accessible for young people. SWB views real learning not merely as a classroom experience, but rather as a lifelong journey, inspired by meaningful experiences and sustained by strong partnerships. This investment helps SWB consolidate their transition & succession planning strategy; host multi-stakeholder initiatives to explore how best to support youth organizing; gain a deeper understanding of youth organizing platforms & maturity models; develop a set of models & practices around transition &

succession planning; implement an ICT (Information & Communication technology) strategy that addresses major gaps & taps into existing opportunities; and develop multi-stakeholder strategic plan and critical path to scale up and share youth organizing platform. \$74,000

### **Sketch**

[www.sketch.ca](http://www.sketch.ca)

This investment helps SKETCH work further on defining youth organizing and making the term accessible for homeless and marginalized youth; help SKETCH youth explicitly see themselves as organizers; work on moving the broader YSI provincial movement forward and ensure SKETCH's involvement and membership in this movement; further develop & mature SKETCH's role in supporting & incubating youth initiatives within the SKETCH space; review policies and procedures to ensure they align with overarching values of youth organizing; implement realistic and useful dissemination & proliferation of materials and tools; deepen social infrastructure to manage and lead change; strategize sustainability; and continue to build revenue generation and strong funding partnerships. \$75,000

### **UrbanArts Community Arts Council**

[www.urbanartstoronto.org](http://www.urbanartstoronto.org)

Youth Micro-Lending Pilot Proposal UrbanArts is a non-profit Community Arts Council focused on enhancing neighbourhoods by engaging youth in community, economic and cultural development through the arts. Their mandate is to promote, engage and facilitate cultural and community development opportunities between artists, arts organizations and community members. The Youth Micro-Loan project was conceived by the City of Toronto with the Laidlaw Foundation, Youth Challenge Fund, Social Enterprise Centre of Excellence, Toronto Community Housing, KEYS and Alterna Savings to achieve the vision laid out in the City's Agenda for Prosperity. The goal of the Youth Micro-Loan pilot is to deliver a youth Micro-loan program to 10-15 youth over a one-year period, with a focus on priority neighbourhoods in west Toronto. This model supports marginalized youth with an intensive business and social enterprise program that provides them with the skills, capital, access, and networks to successfully launch their businesses. The Youth Micro-Loan Initiative is a business and social enterprise-training program that enables marginalized youth to foster a business/social enterprise idea into a realistic business plan that is supported by up to \$5,000 seed funding. \$20,000



## ArtReach Toronto\* Initiatives

### Amadeusz/Albion Neighbourhood Services [www.amadeusz.ca](http://www.amadeusz.ca)

*Look at my Life Project: Da 2nd Album - Amadeusz*  
The Look at my Life: Da 2nd Album project provides visual arts, graffiti arts, poetry, spoken word, and life skills programming to youth aged 18-29 at the Toronto West Detention Centre and youth aged 13-17 at the Roy McMurtry Youth Centre. \$10,000

### De-Railed Theatre Collective Stories off the Track

*The De-Railed Theatre Collective empowers racialized, newcomer youth in Lawrence Heights to enact personal stories and question "official" Canadian history through weekly art-based skill building workshops in acting, script writing and performance opportunities.* \$9,700

### Kwemto International

*Disabled Young People Project*  
The Disabled Young People's Project is a by youth for youth initiative that engages racialized young people, between the ages of 16 and 29, living with disabilities. Youth participants are supported to build their leadership skills, increase self-acceptance and learn filmmaking skills to be able to express themselves through art as means of effecting social change. \$10,000

### Limitless Productions

[www.limitlessproductions.ca](http://www.limitlessproductions.ca)

*Limitless Productions*  
This project creates inclusive, skill building opportunities in contemporary dance and theatre for youth from diverse backgrounds, specifically engaging young people of South Asian decent, and youth with varied abilities. \$8,890

### Manifesto Community Projects Inc.

[www.themanifesto.ca](http://www.themanifesto.ca)

*Know Your Craft*  
The Know Your Craft project is an urban arts initiative that provides breakdance, photography, film-making and DJing skill building opportunities to youth, aged 14-29, from the Scarborough, Regent Park and Parkdale areas of Toronto. \$25,000

### Media Creatorz

*Media Creatorz*  
The Media Creatorz project involves a series of weekly workshops for Native youth in Toronto on the topic of contemporary storytelling. This project provides youth with opportunities to build skills in filmmaking to highlight First Nations issues and share their untold stories. \$9,030

### No Limit Dance Squad

<https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71445380393>

*No Limit Dance Squad Leaders in Training*  
No Limit Dance Squad, a youth-led dance group in Scarborough, provides youth with skill building opportunities in reggae, hip hop and krump forms of dance as well as choreography. \$10,000

### Schools Without Borders

[www.swb.ca](http://www.swb.ca)

*Gashanti Unity*  
The Sheeko project involves young Somali women being supported to develop technical skills in film and photography, as well as to explore their culture and art history through storytelling. SWB is the administrative partner on this project. \$10,000

### Sketch

[www.sketch.ca](http://www.sketch.ca)

*CUE 2010 - CUE Collective*  
This project creates opportunities for young people who are insecurely housed. It nurtures their artistic talents and builds their skills through workshops and technical supports. It helps them develop artist CV's, curatorial skills and more. Sketch is the administrative partner on this project. \$9,970

**Soulcraft Collective**[www.soulcraft.ca](http://www.soulcraft.ca)*Imagine Animation*

*The Imagine Animation project engages youth in skill building opportunities through animation (drawing, character design, layout, storyboarding, acting) and culminates in the development of various animation shorts. \$7,500*

**Spoken-Film***Spoken Film**Spoken-Film creates*

*opportunities for youth in high priority neighbourhoods to express their personal experiences through spoken word. Spoken-Film uses film techniques to deliver their sentiments through media arts. Spoken-Film works towards building positive relationships with youth and has a ripple effect on communities. It uses art as a therapeutic tool not only for self-expression, but for healing as well. \$5,000*

**St. Stephen's Community House**[www.ststephenshouse.com](http://www.ststephenshouse.com)*Toronto Mosaic*

*Toronto Mosaic provides young people from the underserved communities of Alexandra Park, Regent Park, Parkdale and Glendower with training in mosaic art, an opportunity to build a permanent artistic piece in their community as well as career development supports. St. Stephen Community House is the administrative partner on this project. \$10,000*

**Stolen from Africa**[www.stolenfromafrica.com](http://www.stolenfromafrica.com)*Stolen from Africa Summer 2010 Media Project*

*The Stolen from Africa Summer 2010 Media Project involves a series of weekly workshops for underserved youth from the Parkdale neighbourhood of Toronto. The project provides youth with opportunities to learn about media outlets and gain skills in filmmaking to share their stories. \$10,000*

**Stud Magazine**[www.thestudmagazine.com](http://www.thestudmagazine.com)*Stud Magazine*

*Stud Magazine engages excluded youth that identify as masculine females in skill building opportunities. They learn comic script writing, comic illustration, writing, photography and overall magazine development. These youth apply their skills in the development of Stud Magazine, an online portal containing valuable resources and information for masculine women, an underserved part of the youth community in Toronto. \$7,000*

**Teresa Wignall (Suritah)**<http://www.sweetlikemangoe.com/about.html>*Embracing Our Community*

*This project provides skill-building opportunities for youth, between the ages of 14 and 21, in the form of a mural development program. The youth participants are taught the skills to develop 2 community murals for the Upwood Park /Salvador Del Mundo Co-op in the Jane and Finch area of Toronto. \$10,000*

**Tonya Burke & Tre Armstrong**<http://www.tre-lystikz.com/>*D-Tour*

*D-Tour is a 12-week dance program focused on goal-setting and decision-making skills development for excluded young women, ages 15 to 19, in Parkdale. The project culminates with the participants choreographing a dance routine and performing it in an interactive showcase in the community. \$8,000*

*\* ArtReach Toronto is a collaborative fund of government, agencies and foundations. The Laidlaw Foundation is its administrative partner.*

