

**LAIDLAW**  
FOUNDATION

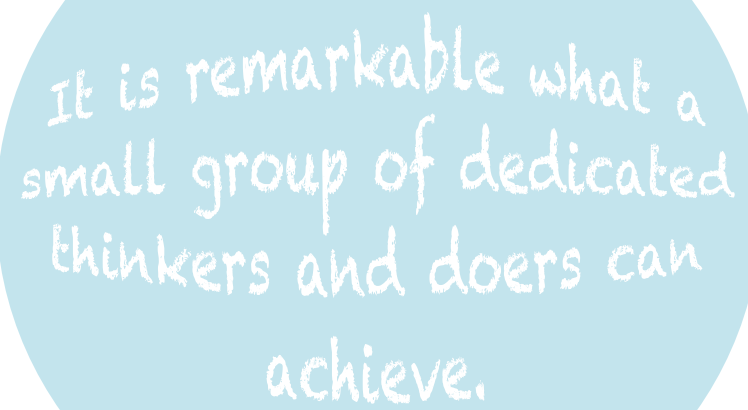


**Annual  
Report**



**2011**





It is remarkable what a  
small group of dedicated  
thinkers and doers can  
achieve.

Alina Chatterjee

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This last year was one of strengthening, change and transition for the Foundation. Building on directions identified in 2010-11, the Foundation continued to advance its goals to build its new organizational structure to better support youth organizing. The learning from these efforts will be critical to the Foundation's work in the coming years.

Innovative research authored by Laidlaw over the last few years, including "Foundations and Pipelines", "Not So Easy To Navigate", "Ground Floors: Building Youth Organizing Platforms", have all been instrumental in guiding the work of the Foundation and identifying niche impacts that Laidlaw currently leads in the sector.

There are two areas of work I would like to highlight that demonstrate this last year of innovation and the unique nature of Laidlaw. The first is the Youth Social Infrastructure (YSI) stream of work and the other is the work Laidlaw does to share its learning more broadly with the sector.

YSI works with youth groups to assist in strengthening their capacity, both in terms of systems and resources.

The groups that have benefited from YSI supports are considered cutting edge in the world of youth work- Schools Without Borders, Grassroots Youth Collaborative, Sketch and TIDES Initiatives. Why is Laidlaw unique in supporting these groups? It recognizes that short-term, project-focused funding can be a disservice to evolving groups and organizations and that dedicated supports and networks can enable groups to be successful is what sets Laidlaw apart from other funders.

The achievements of these organizations and young people have been tremendous. Contributions in areas of the arts, homelessness and housing, employment, business development and city building are more than just very impressive, they are our pathways to the future.

More recently, the organization has begun to lead cutting edge theory and systems-thinking. Change labs, collaboratives, network building and the art of hosting are only a few of the ways that Laidlaw has led or been part of in this last year. Advancing social change is a monumental task that the

courageous youth we work with take on. Understanding, sharing and learning about how these exceptional young leaders help to build a better society creates not just institutional memory but informs promising practice in a sector that is constantly changing.

It is remarkable what a small group of dedicated thinkers and doers can achieve. To Nathan, Violetta, Susan, Ana, Wanda and Denis- all we can say is thank you for your tremendous work, time spent and generosity of mind. It is an honour to be part of this family and to know that every day will be a new adventure as we continue to support the ideas and hearts of our future leaders.

*"Contributions in areas of the arts, homelessness and housing, employment, business development and city building are more than just very impressive, they are our pathways to the future."*

*Alina Chatterjee, President*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*“We believe that meaningful engagement will occur when young people are supported to have greater agency over their life course.”*

2011 marked the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Foundation's 5-year strategic plan. The Foundation's vision is of an inclusive society that values young people in becoming fully engaged to build inclusive communities with young people. With rather than For is a key to the Laidlaw Foundation's ideology and practice. Positive youth development is not something that adult allies impose on young people. We believe that meaningful engagement will occur when young people are supported to have greater agency over their life course. Rich tacit knowledge, harvesting the lived experience of young people will have collective impact and transform social practice and outcomes-based social policy.

Successful navigation of the cognitive, social, physical, emotional and spiritual developmental trajectories are often dependent on a young person having:

- the unconditional support of adult mentors
- exposure to multiple opportunities where they can test and discover a

- set of skills or talents
- the resources and support to develop competence and mastery.

Progress against the Foundation's Strategic Plan is monitored quarterly by the Directors. Quarterly reports track the implementation and course corrections to the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan:

## 1 THE FIRST STRATEGIC GOAL: To Influence Policy

- We commission research, position papers and policy analysis
- Campaign for a provincial positive outcomes-based youth policy framework
- Promote youth engagement in policy development & execution

## 2 THE SECOND STRATEGIC GOAL: To Invest in Innovation

- Strengthening youth-led initiatives
- Building organizational capacity

- Building stronger infrastructure supports

## 3 THE THIRD STRATEGIC GOAL: To Generate/Communicate Knowledge & To Convene

- Disseminating & communicating learning
- Sharing research through reports, website & social media
- Convening & supporting networks to explore issues related to youth engagement
- Convening funders to develop strategic partnerships & grants

## 4 THE FOURTH STRATEGIC GOAL: To Build Strong Internal Operations

- Effective board & governance structures & processes
- Effective planning, accountability, technology & record systems
- Effective staff
- Evaluation framework

Nathan Gilbert, Executive Director

# YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN 2011

ONTARIO

## Youth Matters!

CAMPAIGN (OYM)



The Foundation continued to play a leadership role with its co-partners, the United Ways of Ontario, United Way Toronto and youth-led and youth serving organizations from across the province. The OYM! leadership team continued to work with Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) officials and political staff to develop a coordinated outcomes-based youth policy framework.

One of the Foundation's core principles is to see young people included at the tables where the decisions that affect their lives are being made. The lived experiences of young people are essential for the development of a comprehensive, coordinated and outcomes-based policy framework. After several months of delay, Ministry staff embraced this inclusive design for youth-policy-making. The Ministry then posted a province-wide call for young people ages 18 to 25 to sit on a 25 member Youth Development Committee. Laidlaw Foundation and OYM participated in the selection process.

OYM! operated with a budget of \$65K. Early in 2011, the OYM Steering Committee selected Roger Mak from a pool of 70 applications to serve as Communications Coordinator.

In April 2011, the MCYS invited the Foundation to attend a Youth Policy Framework Research Forum. Also attending were senior policy analysts from several ministries, researchers and academics from across Canada and the members of the Youth Development Committee. The MCYS released a draft working version of what it called a *Resource on Youth Development: Ontario's Youth Policy Framework*.

The MCYS drew on commissioned literature reviews to develop a better understanding of the developmental trajectories associated with different age clusters: early adolescence (ages 11-14), adolescence (ages 13-19) and early adulthood (ages 17-25). OYM believed that the Forum would lay the groundwork for an outcomes-based policy framework.

The impending provincial election delayed the release of the document. As of May 2012, the draft document had still not been released and the Ministry's commitment to an outcomes-based youth policy framework remains unclear.

REFORMS TO

# Child Welfare

POLICIES



On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 OYM's Event Planning Committee, in partnership with Rock the Vote, Apathy is Boring and Student Vote organized *Make It Count*, a public meeting at George Brown College ten days before the provincial election. The meeting featured an all candidate's debate, artistic performances and sessions on voter education. 120 young people attended the event. An evaluation concluded that the meeting was a success.

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In 2011, Minister Broten, the Ontario Minister for Children and Youth Services introduced the following amendments to the Family and Children's Services Act. The Minister's Bill introduced the following changes:

- Extended care and maintenance agreements were broadened and extended to age 21. We continue to advocate for moving the age to 24. (John Stapleton recently completed a cost benefit research analysis for the Ontario Child & Youth Advocates office on extending maintenance to age 25 (25 is the new 21)).
- Child welfare agencies are obliged to provide care for all youth up to the age of 18 rather than at age 16. The changes recognizes that young people in care need ongoing and long term support to overcome the feared birth date when they are terminated from care.
- Agencies will be encouraged to prepare permanency planning services that would enable foster parents and kin to adopt children without long delays.

In the Legislature, the Minister singled out the Government's appreciation to John Stapleton (an independent senior policy analyst), Nathan and members of the Minister's Advisory Committee for laying the groundwork for the adoption of the new legislation.

As a gesture of her gratitude the Minister presented Nathan and the others with a signed copy of the Bill.

PROFILE: FILMMAKER

# Andrée Cazabon

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR  
YOUTH IN CARE

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



## WARDS OF THE CROWN

In Canada there are over 90,000 children who are 'wards of the crown' or children in care. This project seeks to encourage change within the child protection system by giving a voice to the youth who have experienced firsthand the challenges of aging out of care with little or no resources. The film follows four teens exiting the child protection system in Ontario.

Six years ago Andrée's documentary film, *Wards of the Crown* was broadcast on CBC Newsworld. The film is owned by the National Film Board (NFB). Cazabon Productions acquired the rights to the film only recently. This will allow the film maker to prepare support materials, a viewers' guide and a website to connect a community of supporters to the issue of youth aging out of care.

Productions Cazabon works with the following organizations: The Child Welfare League of Canada, The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society and the National Youth in Care Network.

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## 3<sup>RD</sup> WORLD CANADA

3<sup>rd</sup> World Canada is a documentary that was filmed in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI 'the people of the lake') a deeply impoverished remote Native community of 1,300 people in northern Ontario. The community lives in 3<sup>rd</sup> world conditions and can only be reached by plane. The cost of living is much higher than in southern Ontario. Access to healthcare and other services are limited. Housing is unsafe and overcrowded, unemployment is very high. The lack of recreation facilities and poor infrastructure underlie a higher than average rate of suicide.

The film is set in the backdrop of the aftermath of the suicide of three parents. It explores the impact of 3<sup>rd</sup> world conditions on the children left behind and a community's courage in looking after them. The documentary was filmed with the participation of First Nations communities.

A viewers' guide for parents, professionals, educators and interveners has been prepared. 3<sup>rd</sup> World Canada received its premier screenings in at the Royal Ontario Museum, sponsored by Toronto Rotary and at the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, sponsored by the Assembly of First Nations.



# Meeting Space

FOR YOUTH: A ROLE FOR THE FOUNDATION IN COMMUNITY FACILITATION



In 2011, Social Planning Toronto and the Space Coalition undertook a youth-led community-based policy research study on access to public space for youth. In July they released the report “*Another Winter, Another Spring: Toronto Youth Speak Out about Space*”.

The core questions that guided the research are:

- What are the barriers youth face when they try to access space?
- What do young people need to be better supported and involved in the conversations around space?
- What advocacy and mobilization efforts are needed to move their agenda further?
- How are youth using space?

Dufferin Mall Youth Services (DMYS) has operated a youth drop-in centre in the Dufferin Mall in Toronto for 20 years. In the spring, DMYS staff and youth were given notice that the Centre would be closing in May, one month earlier than in past years. No guarantee was provided that the Centre would re-open in September.

Frontline Partners with Youth Network (FPYN) and the Dufferin Mall youth asked Nathan to host and facilitate a discussion among all of the stakeholders. The intention was to explore options that would lead to space re-opening in September. Youth attending this meeting were encouraged to provide personal testimonials on the importance of this drop-in space to their well-being.

The other stakeholders attending the first and subsequent meetings were frontline youth workers senior representation from other social service agencies operating out of the Mall and representatives from the Office of the Ontario Child & Youth Advocate, the United Way and the Canadian Training Institute (CTI).

The young people who regularly used the drop-in and DMYS staff spoke movingly about the importance of the DMYS to their health and security. Following this first meeting the agencies located in the Mall agreed to find another long-term solution to the funding shortfall. St. Stephen's House has taken administrative responsibility for DMYS but no long term solution has as yet been found. The City continues to lose youth-led, safe, secure, public, un-programmed drop-in space.

Another Winter, Another Spring

<http://spacecoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/Youth-and-Space-Report-FINAL.pdf>



# YOUTH ORGANIZING PROGRAM



BRIGHT FUTURE ALLIANCE – SCHOOLS WITHOUT BORDERS (<http://www.brightfuturealliance.ca/>)

At the Foundation, we are in a stage of active reflection as we near the end of our 5-year 2007-2012 strategic plan - a plan that has seen the Foundation focus its granting, communications and capacity strengthening strategies on supporting the process of youth-led community organizing. The Foundation undertook this strategic plan because it recognized that young people are creating socially inclusive spaces for their peers, their families and their communities.

It could see through its work with young people that social inclusion wasn't an academic or theoretical aspiration but something that is built moment to moment through the relationships between people; and between people and the institutions and systems that intersect with their lives. The Foundation's stake in youth-led organizing extends beyond the individual journey of each youth-led group to the ripples and waves these efforts have in our communities and broader society.

# WHAT ARE WE SEEING WITH THE YOUTH ORGANIZING PROGRAM 5 YEARS INTO THIS PLAN?

## **Funding Updates:**

In 2011, 29 groups were funded. This included 3 multi-year partnerships to support Kapisanan, the Fresh Collective and Amadeusz. At the end of this report, you can read brief descriptions of each YO grantee.

These are teasers and we encourage you to seek out these groups and hear from them firsthand. They reveal the pulse of the community and are a gut-check on what is happening.



## ***Youth-led groups advocating for changes in practices within institutions and social systems***

Young people continue to see the necessity of bringing their lived experiences to bear on institutions and spaces that shape their lives. In 2011, the Youth Organizing program worked with groups to engage in different forms of education and advocacy focused on education, the police, justice, health-care providers and social services. For example, the Youth Alliance continues its efforts to see community-based recommendations inform Toronto Police services sexual assault policies and practices and the Forced Marriage Project engages young women from different communities to express their views and understandings of forced marriage.

## ***Youth-led groups developing safe spaces***

Young people continue to create alternative, engaging and inclusive spaces for their peers. These spaces support concrete skills development while enabling young people to reflect on their own experiences in a broader social context. For example, both Limitless and ILL Nana use dance and movement to enable young people to connect to supportive peers and Youth2Youth developed a young men's group in Teesdale.

## ***Youth-led groups creatively bringing attention to and naming issues affecting them and their communities***

Young people are using creative strategies to voice experiences that are not being widely discussed and bravely inviting others to the conversation. For example, Deviant Productions is using documentary film to showcase the day to day lives of queer youth and the amazing contributions young people are making and Shadeism is using documentary film and workshops to bring attention to experiences of shadeism within and across communities.

## ***Youth-led groups staying the course and new generations emerging***

Youth-led groups and strategies are continually changing to be reflective of the needs in their community, but as this happens groups continue to stay the course in the overall commitment to creating safe space for young people to organize from. Considering how challenging and precarious this work is, it is a strong signal to all of the value and need for youth-led community organizing within and across communities.

# YOUTH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Through ongoing knowledge sharing the Foundation strives to extend our experiences beyond our focus on one demographic. If we are striving for a more inclusive society we need to extend our values driven approach to open-up conversations and influence others (institutions, agencies, communities) to look at their own inclusion processes, decision-making structures and community development initiatives. The Foundation continues to focus its efforts on exploring new ways of doing things to solve old problems. Not being wedded to the notion of traditional models of organizing or forms of organizations has created the space for innovation and in many cases fostered radically different models of organizing. While much literature is being written about new ways to organize and create change, the work we do and support is generating new reference points within our networks and extends beyond the focus of our immediate networks.

Over the past year, the Youth Social Infrastructure Initiative (YSI) has focused on:

- building effective collaborations and partnerships
- exploring innovative and entrepreneurial opportunities in the nonprofit sector
- convening learning opportunities to enable the work of the youth we support through out Youth Organizing program.

Through the YSI, strategic multi-year investments have built stronger youth sector infrastructure, intermediary and capacity strengthening support to youth organizers. Support to Children's Mental Health Ontario's the New Mentality Project, Sketch, Manifesto, Frontline Partners with Youth Network, Girls Action Foundation, ArtReach Toronto and the Grassroots Youth Collaborative allowed these groups to experiment and innovate with alternative governance, social infrastructure and succession planning structures, while strengthening their network and intermediary offerings to the youth community.

Manifesto, Schools without Borders, Sketch and Grassroots Youth Collaborative joined as partners to enhance and expand the reach of their capacity strengthening offerings through a new initiative, the Grassroots Youth School that saw its formation in 2011. Support to Schools without Borders and the People Project allowed for significant transition and reformation of those organizations, working to more effectively meet their missions and program delivery.

We partnered with Tides Canada Initiatives, convening groups across Toronto providing administrative platform support in their communities. These ongoing meetings allowed those involved in this growing innovation to share their learning, information, contracts and policies, and to help define and gain a better understanding of administrative platforms, their benefits, what they are not and their potential to transform the nonprofit and charitable sector in Canada.

Linked to this, we provided an innovation grant to Tides to explore the creation of a grassroots platform that could be hosted within the larger Tides platform structure.

The act of convening is a strategy that sits as an umbrella over all our initiatives. It is the way we can gather and share knowledge and information; bring communities of practice together; build effective relationships with government, funding agencies, sectoral networks, grantees, nonprofit groups and communities. We have done this through the YSI collaborative, with our grantees and funding agencies. In 2011, we partnered with the People Project to bring the Embodied Activism workshop to youth organizers in Toronto, delivered with deep insight and teachings by Tomee Sojourner. We piloted the powerful first international workshop and co-hosted the book launch of the Walk Out Walk On learning journey, lead by Margaret Wheatley, Deborah Frieze, Tuesday Ryan-Hart and Tim Merry. And, we provided subsidies to three grantees to attend a yearlong intensive training in Deep Democracy with Julie Diamond. The Deep Democracy process values diverse leadership, bringing to the forefront voices that are not usually heard or can become lost in consensus models.





# 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEES & STAFF

## **BOARD**

Liban Abokor  
Jen Apgar  
Andrew Bedeau  
Peter Caldwell  
Alina Chatterjee, President  
Brian Chu (to June 2011)  
Clive Curtis (to December 2011)  
John F. Fox  
Jessica Hammell  
Julia Laidlaw  
Mitchell Marcus  
Lenore Richards  
Helena Shimeles (to June 2011)  
Jillian Witt

## **NOMINATIONS**

Alina Chatterjee  
Nathan Gilbert  
Julia Laidlaw  
Mitchell Marcus  
Lenore Richards

## **YOUTH ORGANIZING**

Liban Abokor  
Elle Alconcel  
Victor Beausoleil  
Brian Chu  
Nathan Gilbert  
Violetta Ilkiw  
Anique Jordan  
Denis Lefebvre  
Mitchell Marcus  
Amber Morley  
Helena Shimeles  
Ana Skinner  
Amaree Watkis  
Assaf Weisz  
Asha Yusaf

## **FINANCE AUDIT**

Andrew Bedeau  
Clive Curtis (to December 2011)  
John F. Fox  
Ken Gibson  
Nathan Gilbert  
Wanda Prochazka (from December 2011)  
Robert Smith  
Merle Young (to December 2011)

## **SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT**

Andrew Bedeau  
Brian Chu  
Nathan Gilbert  
Violetta Ilkiw  
Julia Laidlaw  
Wanda Prochazka (from December 2011)  
Jillian Witt  
Merle Young (to December 2011)

## **YOUTH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Jen Apgar  
Dev Aujla  
Alina Chatterjee  
Brian Chu  
Arti Freeman  
Nathan Gilbert  
Violetta Ilkiw  
Chris Kang  
Hanifa Kassam  
Denis Lefebvre  
Paulina O'Kieffe  
Shahina Sayani  
Ana Skinner  
Jillian Witt  
Leslie Wright  
Andrea Zammit

## **INVESTMENT**

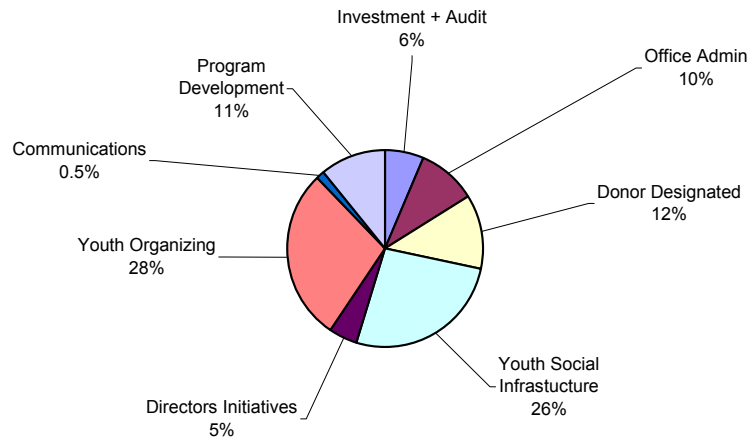
Andrew Bedeau  
Peter Caldwell  
Brian Chu (to June 2011)  
Clive Curtis (to December 2011)  
Steve Dorey  
Nathan Gilbert  
Heather A.T. Hunter  
Edward J. Kwan  
Wanda Prochazka (from December 2011)  
Jillian Witt  
Merle Young (to December 2011)

## **STAFF**

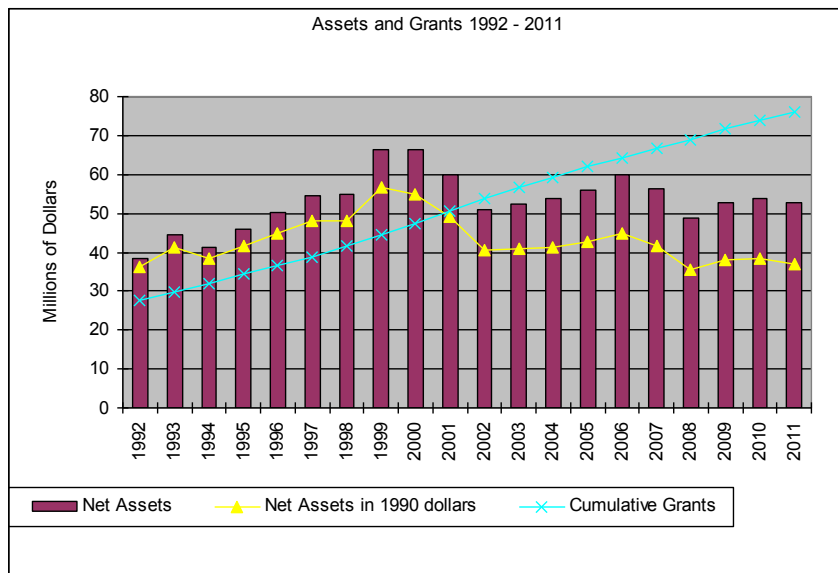
Susan Brand, Secretary  
Caitlin French, Intern  
Nathan Gilbert, Executive Director  
Violetta Ilkiw, Manager, Youth Social Infrastructure  
Denis Lefebvre, Manager, Communications  
Roger Mak, Coordinator, Ontario Youth Matter!  
Wanda Prochazka, (from December 2011), Manager, Finance and Operations  
Shahina Sayani, Manager, ArtReach Toronto  
Ana Skinner, Manager, Youth Organizing  
Merle Young (to December 2011), Manager Finance and Administration

# 2011 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Expenditures 2011 by program area



Grants and charitable activities plus related expenses amounted to \$2.34 million. Office administrative expenses were \$268,000



Net Assets (market value) at December 31, 2011 were \$52.7 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 2011

## BOARD INITIATIVES

### Child Welfare League of Canada [www.cwlc.ca](http://www.cwlc.ca)

#### *Ward of the Crown - Multi Media Project*

To build on Andrée Cazabon's documentary film 'Wards of the Crown'. The film follows four teens exiting the child protection system in Ontario. The film maker will create multi media support materials, a viewer's guide and a website to contact a community of supporters on the issue of youth aging out of care. (multi-year commitment: 2011 \$10,000; 2012 \$6,000)

### Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win [www.northsouthpartnership.com](http://www.northsouthpartnership.com)

#### *Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win*

To support one full-time Youth Outreach Worker over the next two years. The role of the outreach worker will be to create opportunities for youth in Southern Ontario to become engaged with youth from Northern Ontario through the development of relationships, networks and social initiatives. (multi-year commitment: 2011 \$30,000; 2012 \$30,000)

### National Youth in Care Network [www.youthincare.ca](http://www.youthincare.ca)

#### *Stabilize Base Funding*

The National Youth in Care Network is the only national charitable organization governed by young people under the age of 25. The network exists to voice the opinions and concerns of youth in and from care and to advocate for the improvement of services for this group. (multi-year commitment: 2011 \$10,000; 2012 \$10,000)

### Tides Canada Initiatives Society [www.tidescanada.org](http://www.tidescanada.org)

#### *Community Design Initiative (CDI) - East Scarborough Store Front*

East Scarborough Storefront is working in community in a new way. The Storefront's core belief in the power of collaboration from all members of the community – residents, agencies, politicians, funders – is the foundation for innovative community change.  
<http://www.thestorefront.org/>

## YOUTH ORGANIZING

### I Do Initiative- Agincourt Community Services Association

#### <http://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com/>

#### *The "I Do!" Initiative --Forced Marriage Project*

The Forced Marriage Project is a youth-led initiative that engages young women of different communities in Toronto to express their views and understanding of forced marriage through spoken word, graphic novel/comic story writing and journalism. Through these arts based strategies, Forced Marriage Project is creating a documentary to educate youth and the broader community about experiences of forced marriages.

### Amadeusz- Albion Neighbourhood Services <http://www.amadeusz.ca>

#### *Look at My Life Project: Ain't Goin' Back - Amadeusz*

Amadeusz provides education and life skills programs for remand youth residing in Toronto's detention centres. The goal of Look at my life Project is to provide young people on remand with support to obtain their GED or Ontario Secondary School Diploma and to explore and prepare for post-secondary schooling. Amadeusz offers mentorship and tutoring supports and evaluates, researches, and advocates for increased supports for remanded youth. Over the next three years, Amadeusz will continue to provide educational supports; develop partnerships to enhance post-release supports; continue to evaluate and research; and enhance its overall organizational capacity. (Multi-year support: 2011 \$50,000; 2012 \$50,000; 2013 \$50,000)

### reConnexion Collective - b current Performing Arts Corp.

#### [www.bcurrent.ca](http://www.bcurrent.ca)

#### *reConnexion Collective: Uth Connexions*

reConnexion is a collective of young professional artists based in Toronto. The Uth Connexions project creates a network of youth "arts boards" in 5 west end neighbourhoods in Toronto, enabling community youth to directly access space and other resources for arts programming. It is a training project for youth in these communities to become their own arts educators and programmers.

### Bright Future Alliance - Schools Without Borders

#### <http://www.brightfuturealliance.ca/> *Youth-lead Education*

Bright Future Alliance emphasizes the need for youth-lead educational programs that are based on the lived experiences of young people who are academically unsuccessful and deemed 'at risk' and where young people use their experiences to mentor and teach their peers. It creates, incubates and supports youth-lead programs in communities and schools, and raises awareness of the importance of non-traditional educational opportunities.

### Film Stars - Canadian Training Institute <http://www.thefilmstarsproject.com/>

#### *The Film Stars Project*

The Film Stars Project is a collective of young people from priority neighbourhoods in Toronto that provides skills building opportunities for their peers through film-making . It enables young people to develop alternative/community generated media to showcase positive things that are happening in their neighbourhoods and share their stories with people outside their communities.

### Empower - Central Toronto Community Health Centres

#### [www.empoweryouth.info](http://www.empoweryouth.info)

#### *HIV Capacity-Building Project - Empower*

Empower is a collective of diverse youth working to address the lack of youth, queer, and sex positive spaces for youth to come together to talk about HIV and sexual health in Toronto. Empower youth facilitate arts-based, community specific workshops on HIV and Sexual health in their local communities; build their capacity to affect change through training sessions and shares the curriculum of these workshops with other youth and service providers as a way of model-sharing and advocacy.

### BASICS Community News Service - Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples

#### <http://www.basicsnews.ca/>

#### *School of People's Journalism - BASICS - Community News Service*

The School of People's Journalism, an initiative of BASICS Community News Service is a journalism school focused on supporting skills development for youth



from low-income and racialized communities in Toronto. Working with individuals and organizations that have experience with community and alternative media in various formats (print, radio, video, web-based/social media), the School of People's Journalism supports community-based advocacy through civic journalism, peer-to-peer education and hands-on skills development.

#### **We Help Youth (WHY) - CultureLink Settlement Services**

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

*Vantage - WHY (We Help Youth)*

We Help Youth (WHY) focuses on increasing access to programming and services for racialized youth, immigrant youth and refugee youth in Etobicoke, with a focus on educational attainment. WHY advocates and creates community supports to address the educational achievement gap between Somali students and their counterparts.

#### **Deviant Productions - Schools Without Borders**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Deviant-Productions/102097171137>

*Deviant Productions*

Deviant Productions is an alternative media collective made up of queer youth of colour. Through film, it brings to light the experiences of queer and trans youth of colour in Toronto and showcases youth activism, resiliency and lived experiences. Through video vignettes, Deviant Productions creates resources to inspire and support peers and combat queerphobia and transphobia across communities.

#### **Education Through Media**

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

*Dolobox Television Initiative*

Education Through Media is a youth-led organization based in Toronto that uses art and technology to create opportunities for young people through education and employment assistance in digital media information communication technology. ETM has developed its new programming space that expands opportunities for program participants and is creating a television platform to showcase grassroots, youth generated media. <http://dolobox.tv/>

#### **Youth 2 Youth - Family Service Toronto**

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

*Follow Your Dreams - Youth 2 Youth*

Youth 2 Youth focuses on providing safe, accessible space for young male residents of Teesdale in east Toronto. These supports aid in their personal growth and community engagement.

#### **Empowerment Squared - Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club**

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

*Downtown Youth Centre*

Empowerment Squared is a youth-led initiative based in Hamilton that is working with a collective of newcomer youth, their peers and community partners to reclaim and redevelop a youth centre. The Downtown Youth Centre and the programs within it create youth-led, safer space that acts as a community hub for diverse youth to share experiences; empowers young people to engage with personal and social issues and supports longer term youth organizing and social change.

#### **Highclass - Schools Without Borders**

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

*Organizational Structure*

Highclass is a youth-led grassroots program that provides an opportunity for youth in marginalized communities to showcase their views on the effects of social economic disadvantage in their communities through the arts. Using new media arts, technology and urban culture as engagement tools, Highclass creates educational and skills development opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized youth. This project enables Highclass to access mentors that can help them to solidify their organizational structure, facilitate strategic planning for programming and help with succession planning.

#### **ILL NANA/DiverseCity Dance Company - Schools Without Borders**

<http://illnana-dcdc.com/default.asp>

*Right to Dance*

ILL NANA/DiverseCity Dance Company provides accessible and anti-oppressive dance education to marginalized youth, focusing on sexuality and gender-based youth culture, youth of colour, and youth with varying body types, class backgrounds and abilities. It provides intensive dance training, on-going classes, artistic development for youth performers, and advocates within and across artistic communities to increase supports for anti-oppressive artistic practices.

#### **Kapisanan Philippine Centre**

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

*Operating 2012*

Kapisanan Philippine Centre creates space for Filipino-Canadian youth to reclaim and explore the heart of their culture, and better integrate their collective identity. Kapisanan is a youth-led, arts-based community organization offering programs and supports to Filipino-Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area. It provides a safe meeting place and platform for Filipino youth to come together and share experiences, explore their identities through participation in the arts, develop their leadership skills and explore their culture on their own terms. Over the next three years, Kapisanan will expand its programming reach within Filipino Youth Communities across

Toronto, develop annual community research events and increase its overall sustainability. (Multi-year support: 2011 \$49,040; 2012 \$39,040; 2013 \$29,040)

#### **Limitless Productions - Ashima Suri**

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

*Limitless Productions*

Limitless uses Indo-contemporary dance theatre to promote community change by creating opportunities for young people, specifically underrepresented youth and youth with various abilities, to be creative, to challenge themselves and to tell stories through dance and theatre. It encourages youth to creatively express themselves and create community dialogue by telling stories that are often seen as taboo within their communities.

#### **Shadeism - Manifesto Community Projects Inc.**

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

*Shadeism - Shadeism*

This multidisciplinary youth-led collective based in Toronto focuses on creating space for discussion between women of colour on the issue of shadeism. This project examines the roots, realities, and effects of this issue on women of colour from diverse backgrounds and creates space for dialogue and discussion that will be shared through video documentary.

#### **Mentoring Arts Tutoring Athletics (M.A.T.A.)**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mentoring-Arts-Tutoring-Athletics-MATA-Inc/278674088824560>

*Mentoring Arts Tutoring Athletics (M.A.T.A.)*

MATA (Mentoring. Arts. Tutoring. Athletics) is a youth-led organization based in the north-west Toronto that encourages young people to develop and apply skills crucial to personal, educational and vocational growth. It advocates within schools, the need for better information and guidance on transitioning to post secondary schooling. It strengthens links between high school staff, students, parents and community.

#### **Youth Alliance - Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children**

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

*Youth Alliance Project Phase III*

The Youth Alliance, is a youth-led group based out of METRAC that has been involved in examining Toronto Police Service's sexual assault policies and practices. It has engaged diverse Toronto youth, youth workers and police officers to learn about their experiences and needs with respect to sexual assault against young women, conducted a review of promising practices and research, and developed recommendations to improve police responses to sexual assault against young women. YAP is launching its report

and working to develop youth-based information options for justice, self-care and healing after a sexual assault, both within the legal system and outside it.

**Ugnayan Ng Kabataang Pilipino Sa Canada (UKPC)/Filipino Canadian Youth Alliance of Ontario - Philippine Women Centre of Ontario**

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

*Filipino Canadian Youth Combatting Systemic Racism - Canadian Youth Alliance of Ontario (UKPA/FCYA-ON)*  
Ugnayan Ng Kabataang Pilipino Sa Canada (UKPC) empowers Filipino Canadian youth as active community members through community based participatory action research. This project supports youth-led analysis of the struggles of Filipino Canadian youth in Toronto and involves the community in developing concrete actions that address systemic racism and economic marginalization.

**Renaissance Youth Group - Salam Sayed**

<http://renaissanceryouthgroup.tumblr.com/>

*Community Scrapbook*

The Renaissance Youth Group is a group of racialized youth from the Lawrence Heights community in Toronto. The Renaissance Youth group focuses on raising awareness and addressing injustices and challenges faced by young people within their community through arts-based strategies. The project's purpose is to educate and expose the issues they experience to people that live outside their community through the development of a community scrapbook, creation of a short documentary film, development of a photo exhibit and by hosting community events.

**Rise Above - Karen Mckenzie**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rise-Above/160261080662796?v=info>

RISE ABOVE young women's program Rise Above informs, inspires and involves young racialized women living in Scarborough to be active citizens in their communities. It focuses on supporting community development and creating skill development opportunities for young women through mentorship, workshops, hosting and running community events, and the development and delivery of empowerment workshops for other young women in their communities.

**Emerge - Schools Without Borders**

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

*Above the Surface - Emerge Young Leaders Program.* Emerge connects young leaders from marginalized communities in Toronto to a diversity of experiences for the purpose of supporting systemic, positive change. The Above the Surface project enables creative reflections, strategic planning, community reports and the development of an interactive website that showcases diverse young leader's perspectives and identifies best practices for cross-community collaboration and exchanges.

<http://www.platform.swb.ca/emerge.html>

**Signs of Science (S.O.S)**

<http://signsofscience.com/index/>

*Youth S.T.E.M. Quest, A tour into Science*  
Signs of Science (SOS) operates a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) mentorship program designed to support young people living in marginalized communities in Toronto to pursue post secondary education in S.T.E.M related programs. SOS creates community-based academic enrichment opportunities, develops partnerships with local schools and universities and raises awareness of the importance of accessible, academic enrichment opportunities for young people living in under-resourced communities.

**The Social Finance Chain - Anshula Chowdhury**

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

*Social Finance Chain - The Sam Project*

The Social Finance Chain is a youth-led micro-lending program that provides capacity supports including mentorship, training and financing to young social entrepreneurs, primarily in Toronto. SFC is engaged in research and development activities to expand its programming to create more opportunities for young people working to improve their communities through social enterprise strategies.

**Spoken-Film - Guillermo Cabrera**

<http://spoken-film.blogspot.com/>

*Spoken-Film*

Spoken-Film combines spoken word and video training to support young people living in under-resourced communities in Toronto to use therapeutic arts to express their experiences. This project mentors young people in spoken word and video; trains youth mentors and provides opportunities for them to apply these skills so that they can continue the positive ripple effect and pay it forward by teaching others.

**YOUnited Neighbourhoods - Schools Without Borders**

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

*YOUnited Neighbourhoods Strategic Planning and Community Consultations*

YOUnited Neighbourhoods is a youth mentorship program that supports artistic, career and life skills development for young people living in under-served communities in Scarborough. YOUnited Neighbourhoods is undergoing strategic planning, conducting community consultations, developing partnerships and supporting youth leadership renewal within its group.

**The Fresh Collective - Youth Action Network**

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

*FRESH Collective - The FRESH Collective*

The FRESH collective is group of young people that have all experienced homelessness and chaotic drug use. FRESH is committed to making it easier for street involved youth interested in stabilizing their lives to receive the supports they need to do so. Along with promoting and supporting the use of existing treatment options, FRESH connects recovering youth with appropriate social, educational and vocational opportunities. Over the next three years, the FRESH Collective will continue to develop peer-based programs, deepen partnerships to create stable housing opportunities for young people and strengthen overall organizational capacity. (Multi-year support: 2011 \$50,000; 2012 \$50,000; 2013 \$50,000) <http://www.freshcollective.com/>

## YOUTH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Children's Mental Health Ontario**

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

*The New Mentality - Art of Hosting Mental Health*

The New Mentality is a program of [Children's Mental Health Ontario](http://www.kidsmentalhealth.ca). It engages youth in breaking the stigma of mental illness and works with them to increase youth engagement within mental health centres. This project will provide 40 youth and their allies training in how to host organizational and systems change work. The initiative will also support succession planning for The New Mentality project.

**Frontline Partners with Youth Network (FPYN) - Tides Canada Initiatives Society**

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

FPYN is a cross-sectoral, city-wide network of people working directly with youth. It is developing a system to respond to the grief and trauma frontline workers face regularly and is evolving several think tanks by providing safe places for people connected to the youth-serving community to come together for

reflection and advocacy. Its 2011 objectives include: increased administrative and community capacity; strategic planning for the network; continuing improvement of online presence; continued & enhanced support to frontline workers; training of a stewardship group; building knowledge & skills; engaging with partners and external groups; outreach & education; and sustainability.

#### **Girls Action Foundation**

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

*Expanding a YSI network in support of girls and young women in the GTA*  
The Girls Action Foundation (GAF) leads and seeds girls' programs across Canada. It builds girls' and young women's skills and confidence and inspires action to change the world. GAF will fill a gap in the GTA by connecting young women change-makers and allies through networking events, skill building workshops, responding to individual and group requests for mentorship and one-to-one supports.

#### **Grassroots Youth Collaborative - Schools Without Borders**

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

The Grassroots Youth Collaborative (GYC) supports local youth organizing in the City of Toronto. GYC's social infrastructure focus is on networking, collaboration, organized planning opportunities, identifying and helping meet capacity needs for grassroots groups of youth in the Greater Toronto Area. In 2012 GYC will develop their emerging partnership project, the Grassroots Youth School; build their multimedia storytelling strategy; and further explore and develop collective evaluation tools for the sector..

#### **Manifesto Community Projects Inc.**

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

*Manifesto - Connect.Cultivate.Create.Communicate.Showcase*

Manifesto works to unite, energize, support and celebrate Toronto's vibrant and diverse music and arts community. The growth of the annual Manifesto Festival and expansion of the model has also resulted in internal strategic remodeling, strategic planning, smarter sustainability plans and space management. In 2011, Manifesto is focused on strengthening its current infrastructure, transition planning, board development, implementing community councils to program the festival and continued partnering on

various programs (Festival, Legends Concert Series, City to City concert series, Luminato, etc). It will also launch the Friends of Culture Fundraising Campaign.

#### **People Project - Schools Without Borders**

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

*The People Project: Y3 -*

The People Project is a movement of spectrum youth -- queer and trans folks of colour and allies committed to individual and community empowerment. They work to inspire critical and creative youth leaders; encourage community based conditions for meaningful growth and cooperation; challenge oppression in all forms; and fuel resilient movements for social justice. The People Project is also allied to 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.

#### **Schools Without Borders**

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

*Youth Social Infrastructure (YSI) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy*

Schools Without Borders (SWB) will implement an ICT strategy that will eventually become a model for youth organizing in the province of Ontario. SWB will convene and host diverse stakeholders to develop and launch this project. The initial partners will include Framework Organization, YSI Collaborative members, Deloitte and Giving Power. This ICT project will create more efficiency within the youth organizing sector at a minimal cost. SWB will present different tools, resources and reasoning as to why this strategy would be effective.

<http://www.youthsi.org/resources.html>

#### **Schools Without Borders**

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

*Building Youth and Frontline worker Policy Capacity*

Frontline Partners with Youth Network (FPYN) in partnership with SWB, will create opportunities for frontline youth workers and youth to gather and work together on becoming more engaged in policy that affects their lives. It will create opportunities for people in the youth sector to solidify their identity as a cohesive voice in order to inform societal thinking about how youth issues should be addressed. <http://www.fpyn.ca/>

#### **Schools Without Borders**

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

*Breathing in to Breath Out: Deep Reflections and Critical Learnings*

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. In 2012, SWB is scaling back its operations, divesting much of this work to partners and what they identify as a Collective Impact group. The focus in 2012 will be on harvesting and sharing their learning from running a youth organizing platform (with a great deal of hands on mentoring, training, consulting and support); and in developing a more transparent and equitable process for facilitating learning exchanges and journeys.

#### **Sketch**

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

*Infrastructure for Youth Organizing in the Arts*

SKETCH is a community-arts space that creates opportunities for marginally housed and homeless people ages 15-29. It has successfully created an environment where young people can debate, collaborate, explore their talents, dream and figure out ways to impact their communities. Sketch has been a key player and team member of the YSI collaborative movement. In 2012 it will explore key questions with its YSI partners: What does it take to develop an effective and sustained infrastructure; What supports are needed to develop infrastructure and over what period of time? What does it mean to provide space, mentoring, administration and creative consultation along regular programming an organization might be offering?

#### **Tides Canada Initiatives Society**

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

*Youth Organizing Platform Transition*

Tides Canada Initiatives' core programming is to provide a professional shared administrative platform that supports nearly 40 projects across Canada. In operational terms, the TCI model provides administrative support and a charitable home to externally generated activities that become internal projects. This support includes human resources, financial, grants management, risk management and regulatory compliance. This initiative will support the groups currently resting on the Schools without Borders platform to migrate to a new Youth Organizing Platform at TCI. This new platform will integrate quality administrative support and training and coaching so youth led projects can share and develop these administrative skills.

<http://www.youthsi.org/resources.html>



## ARTREACH

### 106 and York

[www.106andYork.com](http://www.106andYork.com)

*Professional Development Workshops*  
106 and York will mentor and support young artists living in marginalized communities through the development, implementation and documentation of artistic professional development workshops for youth in Toronto's west-end priority neighbourhoods. The project will support aspiring musicians, dancers, visual artists, photographers, and cinematographers through mentorship by professionals in their fields.

### Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention

<http://asaap.ca/>

*'Q? Y Art?' - SAQuN (South Asian Queer Network)*

This project is a multidisciplinary arts initiative engaging South Asian LGBTTIQQ2S AND MSM/WSW youth in skill-building opportunities in the areas of creative writing, burlesque, drag and visual art. The work of participants will be launched at a public event, and exhibited.

### Muslim Girls Get Moving

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

*Muslim Girls Get Moving*

This project creates safe and accessible space for female Muslim youth to engage in culturally appropriate artistic movement/performance forms. The project aims to reduce barriers and engage these young women in skill-building opportunities in the area of kalaripayattu, an Indian martial art.

### Pomegranate Tree

IZZAT

The IZZAT project will engage and support 8 young racialized women to explore family violence through the use of theatre and illustration. After building skills in these art forms, the youth will create a graphically illustrated composite story to be used as a teaching tool by educators and community leaders.

### Sherbourne Health Centre

[www.sherbourne.on.ca](http://www.sherbourne.on.ca)

*Living Trans Pride - Supporting Our Youth (SOY)*

This project aims to create spaces for trans and gender queer youth to build community through artistic expression and to develop leadership skills in planning, outreach and implementation. A series of multi-disciplinary arts-based workshops (film-making, dance, and interdisciplinary practice) will be provided to engage and empower trans and gender queer youth in a positive journey of self-expression, culminating in an opportunity to showcase their work at a community-wide arts-based Trans Pride event.

### Sketch

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

*The Catscan Collective - CATSCAN*

The CATSCAN collective will provide youth with skill-building opportunities in the areas of photography, printmaking, encaustic painting, spray paint and airbrush as well as woodcarving and sculpture. This project will create an alternative learning environment where marginalized artists can share skills, experiment with new mediums and incorporate new skills into their personal practices.

### Swalha Said

*True Colors*

The True Colors project is a collaborative community arts project designed to create employment opportunities and promote capacity development for young people in the Flemingdon Park community of Toronto. The project will provide skill-building opportunities in visual arts through the production of a mural. The mobile mural will be placed at various points in the community to represent the neighbourhood through the eyes of its young people.

### Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TorontoKikiBallroom/featured>

*Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance*

This project involves creating a safe space for LGBTTIQQ2S youth from Jane & Finch, Malvern, Chalkfarm, Regent Park, Jamestown, Galloway, and other areas of Toronto to build skills in ballroom dance and other related art forms. Performance opportunities will be made available in the form of monthly ballroom events. Young people will also be provided with training and opportunities to assume leadership roles in programming and governance.

### The Young Visionaries

[www.young-visionaries.com](http://www.young-visionaries.com)

*Photography and Cinematography Program*

This project will provide youth, from underserved neighborhoods across Toronto, with skill-building opportunities in storytelling and cinematography. Experienced young artists in Toronto will provide the youth participants with instruction and mentorship to develop short films that reflect issues faced in their communities. The final products will be showcased online and at a screening event.

### Zahra Agjee

[indproject.com](http://indproject.com)

*Truth & Dare*

This project will provide a series of photography-based, skill-building workshops for young Muslim women in Toronto. The youth participants will have an opportunity to showcase their work and participate in the development of one edition of AQSAZine. This project aims to strengthen one's sense of identity through creative exploration and create a sense of belonging among excluded youth