

LAIDLAW
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL
REPORT **2012**

**L A I D L A W
F O U N D A T I O N**

**A N N U A L
R E P O R T**



P R E S I D E N T ' S R E P O R T

Laidlaw has a vision: we see a society that supports the full engagement of young people in civic, social, economic and cultural life. To that end, we provide funding and support to energetic young people with the determination, stamina, and good nature to move us in that direction. This year we continued funding initiatives that impressed and challenged our granting committees. Amadeuz, Manifesto, the New Mentality...the list is long and, incidentally, attached to this report! All determined, vibrant, youthful organizations either starting out or already making their mark and pushing us towards a vision we share.

But it was not business as usual this year for Laidlaw. The end of 2012 marked the beginning of a new strategic planning and consultation process that will culminate in the 2013–2018 Strategic Plan. A strategic plan answers the questions: What are our goals in the next five years, and how do we allocate our resources to achieve them? If our “mission” is the road we are following, the goals we set out in the strategic plan are next milestones on that road – the specific targets we have set for the next five years.

In summary, the Strategic Plan is to use our relationship with our grantees to build the case for systemic changes that will improve the prospects of young people.

Towards the end of the year we commissioned a scoping study that would provide the Board with strategic options as we move forward. Extensive consultation both outside and inside Laidlaw provided critical feedback and we are grateful to all who participated. Among other things, it pointed out two key strengths of the Laidlaw Foundation: its willingness to fund youth initiatives where others would not, and the constant communication between our staff, applicants and grantees. Both of these strengths are reflective of the skill and experience of our staff in attracting young people with great (sometimes off-the-wall) ideas, mitigating the risk

others see by understanding the projects, and staying in touch as the programs developed. I want to underscore the influence of key participants: our Advisors (who sit on our granting committees) and our Grantees. Both these groups are rife with experience in the youth sector and are keen to share with us problems that they would like to see us focus on. Among them: the loss of youth friendly spaces, the amount of time and energy committed to getting funding (and the feeling of being a “professional panhandler”) as opposed to spending time advancing their goals and the mental health issues that youth leaders are coming across more and more. I cannot name them all – the point is that without their participation, these issues might not be front and centre for Laidlaw.

There are always more good ideas than money. Surrounded by Laidlaw’s grantees and partners it is difficult to imagine how the opposite could ever be true. It’s the right problem to have, but not an easy one to resolve. While Laidlaw will continue to support new and exciting ideas, we will be focussing more funding on specific issues identified by youth leaders. By doing so, we believe Laidlaw will be best positioned to make a lasting and impactful contribution towards building a society that welcomes the contributions of youth.

I do have one bone to pick with the participants in our consultations. Participants gave great advice as though to an organization that was distant. “It will be interesting to see what Laidlaw does” one participant stated. On this point, I need to push back. Laidlaw is its grantees, is its advisors, is its staff, is its board. Together we make it what it is, and moreover, what it can be.

JOHN FOX



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MARKERS TO A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

At the Laidlaw Foundation Annual meeting held in June 2012, members, grantees and guests were introduced to John Fox the newly elected President and to seven new directors. Two new learning reports on youth led community organizing: Strategies and Tools and Values Driven Work were released. Both were well received. A third report entitled Impacts of Youth-Led Community Organizing will be released in the next 3 months. Attendees were given the opportunity to identify ways in which the Foundation could provide greater support to their initiatives and sustainability. Many called for increased knowledge sharing, communications and more regular opportunities to meet with other funded groups.

The Foundation's current strategic plan has focused its efforts on increasing opportunities for meaningful and inclusive youth engagement by:

- » Supporting young people in taking action and enhancing organizational capacity of youth led groups
- » Influencing and supporting policy development that adopts a positive youth development approach
- » Strengthening infrastructure and intermediary supports
- » Supporting institutional shifts to better engage youth in decision making
- » Convening funders to develop strategic partnerships
- » Supporting networks to address or explore issues related to inclusive youth engagement
- » Disseminating what it is learning

In 2009, Dr. David MacCoy, President of First Leadership Ltd. was engaged to undertake a formative mid-course evaluation of the Foundation's 2008–2012 strategic and operational plans. Dr. MacCoy working with Board and Staff, drafted a theory of change, a simple theory of "how and why" an initiative works.

"In positive youth development, youth are not broken, in need of psychosocial repair, or problems to be managed."
(Scott)

"The Foundation supports young people to strengthen their capacity to act as social change agents in their communities and society. Simultaneously the Foundation supports policy initiatives that adopt positive youth development, as well as institutional shifts to better engage young people in sharing power and decision-making. In doing so, we gather data, build an evidence-base and share knowledge with our partners to influence policy makers and social institutions to enhance inclusive youth engagement."

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (PYD)

Laidlaw Foundation was an early adopter of Positive Youth Development (PYD) as a core policy driver to promote healthy youth development. The first strategic goal of the 2008–2012 Plan was to campaign for a provincial positive outcomes – based youth policy framework.

- » PYD is asset-based and not deficit based
- » PYD sees potential in all youth and recognizes that all youth have agency (contributors to decision-making)
- » PYD considers the environments/context (family, school, work, experience with discrimination, physical environment etc.)

An important part of the strategic planning process for 2013–2018 was to present the Directors with a menu of options for its consideration. Three independent consultants were engaged to work with the Board on the Plan.

FIONA SCOTT (<http://fionascott.ca/>), an independent evaluation consultant, was hired to undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Foundation's engaged grant-making strategies. The Foundation

wanted to better understand the impact these grants were having on young person's positive youth development. There was insufficient quantifiable data collected by the Foundation's granting programs to understand the full impact for the period of 2008–2012.

"Promoting healthy youth development means providing young people with skill-building opportunities, youth agency and decision-making, resources, relationships between youth and non-family adults, high expectations, and experiences that instill in them a sense of value, confidence, self-esteem and hope for the future (Scott)

"Studies that have followed young people at risk found the difference between those who thrive and those that don't is the presence of quality relationships in the young person's life.

Positive youth development increases the protective factors, reducing risk factors that contribute to negative social outcomes. (Schonert-Reichl, 2008)

JAMES STAUCH (<http://www.8thrung.ca/#all>), (8th Rung) an independent consultant, was engaged to prepare a Strategic Options Scoping Study. James conducted more than forty interviews. He found that "there is a strong call for the Laidlaw Foundation to find a better balance between making grants and more purposeful operational forms of investment. Specifically, the Foundation was urged to improve communications, to collaborate more deeply and effectively, to build bridges between youth and adults, and between youth and a wider array of institutions and credibility into pushing for public policy change.

James was asked to identify:

- » What strategies are foundations of a similar size to Laidlaw are using and what have been their impacts?
- » What strategies are funders using to promote youth development to help young people transform their communities?
- » What do people in the youth sector think of our work? What opportunities and gaps exist in the sector
- » How does Laidlaw's work fit into the broader change communities, the bigger policy issues?

From the interviews James identified the following key themes:

What is Working?

- » The Foundation is a pioneer in youth-engaged philanthropy in Canada
- » The Foundation takes a positive, asset-based approach

- » The Foundation thinks seriously about its accountability to the community. It believes in transparency and inclusivity
- » The Foundation takes an interactive grant-making approach

Room for Improvement and Innovation

- » Laidlaw is like a "black box". Its work needs to be more visible. Many only have a dim sense of the Foundation's community investment approach.
- » Need to re-energize communications
- » Leverage the Foundation's networks to influence public policy
- » Apply more of a systems approach and build the field
- » Create a clear vision for a strategic plan, and build evaluation into it.
- » Learn from failure
- » How are we reaching the unengaged—The NEETS—not in employment, education or training
- » Go beyond Toronto

What Others Would Like Laidlaw to Work On

- » Youth Economic Prospects – youth unemployment
- » Youth democratic engagement
- » Building a livable creative vibrant, and democratic city
- » Citizen centered public space
- » Re-imagine education in Canada

WARREN COUGHLIN (<http://warrencoughlin.com/>), a business coach, took the Directors, staff and advisors through an exercise in arriving at a strategy to perform a meaningful SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) analysis. This allowed the Board, staff and advisors to identify what strengths we have that we can leverage. Can we take advantage of these strengths to take advantage of opportunities?

"At the same time we try to identify our shortcomings that may prevent us from fully taking advantage of those opportunities or that might leave us vulnerable to threats or external challenges."

There was agreement that Laidlaw shift from a primarily grant-making organization to one that uses our knowledge generation to have a more persuasive role, to be a champion for and with young people.

NATHAN GILBERT



YOUTH ORGANIZING PROGRAM REFLECTIONS

There is an obvious, but sometimes overlooked aspect to youth-led community organizing: *every year that goes by, young leaders, community advocates and change-makers grow older.*

For the past five years, the Laidlaw Foundation has focused on supporting youth-led community change. It has done so because it continues to see that young people are stepping up and challenging all of us to approach critical social and community issues differently. There is often an urgency and generative frustration that leads young people to take action. 'Generative frustration' is how young people will take their own experiences of criminalization and marginalization, of feeling written off by different systems, or pathologized by services, and translate that into action projects that model different ways of doing things. The Foundation is surrounded by young people who take stands against systems and programs that don't validate and resonate with their lived-experiences and the priorities of their peers, families and communities. Youth-led community organizing focuses on creating safe space for self-determination. These are everyday forms of resistance.

So, what happens to youth organizing as organizers grow older?

The Foundation at its core is focused on systems change, on creating socially inclusive communities that value all members. Over the past five years, the Foundation has seen young people that were at the centre of projects step up and step back to create space for new generations of youth. We have seen these community advocates transitioning into new positions through education and employment. We have watched young people transitioning into new phases in their lives. In terms of systems change, in the communities we work in, people will often talk about the need to train adults and people in positions of power on 'how to not be at risk of putting young people at risk'. Seeing all these young people move forward while maintaining their roots in youth organizing is inspiring. It means that there are people in positions of power and influence that are connected to a pulse of young people that can keep all of us honest and connected

to meaningful and innovative solutions. It means there are more people in positions of power that are kept accountable to their communities and young people that came before and will come after them. This ripple is a potential wave of systems change. As the Youth Organizing program continues to support youth-led projects, it is also seeing the increased need to ensure that intergenerational relationships and dialogues happen between youth organizers, slightly older youth and allies who are working to open whatever spaces they can to young people.

2008–2012 Overview:

From 2008–2012, the Foundation received over 360 funding requests from youth-led groups. This reflects a significant number of young people and community members working to take action on issues affecting them. In total, the Youth Organizing Program supported over 120 of these youth-led projects investing over \$3 million dollars directly in young people. Around 90% of these projects have been based in Toronto, working across the city or in specific neighbourhoods. We have also supported some exciting pockets of youth-led projects in Hamilton, Peterborough, Elora, and the Niagara region.

The youth-led groups the Foundation has supported come together through shared identities including culture, gender and neighbourhoods. Almost all the groups work with racialized youth and young people that are facing different forms of social exclusion. The vast majority of these projects have focused on creating safe space for young people to come together, build collective visions and pilot solutions. Community-based education strategies ranging from running experiential education projects to bridging academic programs have been a significant area of focus.

2012 Funding Updates:

In 2012, 21 groups were funded. This included 3 multi-year partnerships to support the Remix Project, The Cue Collective and Lost Lyrics. You can read brief descriptions of each YO grantee at the end of this report.

ANA SKINNER



YOUTH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE REFLECTIONS

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

The Youth Social Infrastructure (YSI) strategy funds infrastructure to support the work of youth organizers (funded by the Youth Organizing Program). The YSI also acts as a learning partner with young people and institutions to identify and implement deliberate support for the development and sustainability of social infrastructure. In 2012, we continued to explore, share and expand our reach through collaborative efforts with grassroots and institutional partners. Here is a small snapshot of some of our activities in the past year:

YSI STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

Through the YSI program, the Foundation provides strategic investments that build stronger intermediary and network supports. In 2012, grants were allocated to Manifesto Community Arts, Frontline Partners with Youth Network (FPYN), ArtReach Toronto, Tides Canada Initiatives – The Base, the Youth Social Infrastructure Collaborative, the ArtDada data visualization project, the Girls Action Foundation's GTA focused work, the New Mentality and the People Project. A brief description of these initiatives is at the end of this report.

YSI COLLABORATIVE

What began as an experiment in emergence and innovation, the YSI Collaborative <http://www.youthsi.org/index.html> has gained growing momentum by expanding its provincial reach and core team membership. This movement grew out of conversations with staff from Laidlaw, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Tides Canada Initiatives. The Collaborative seeks to amplify and accelerate the innovative youth organizing & community change work happening across the province. Groups and individuals who have networked with the YSI Collaborative identify it as central to the work of measuring the collective impact of the youth organizing sector in Ontario.

The YSI Collaborative held a soulful & dynamic core team planning retreat October 23 & 24, 2012, to build momentum, share stories, support & skills, and connect back to the land and spirit. The core team has a unique fluid membership model, with people stepping in and out depending on their interests, availability and what they can contribute to the collaborative at a particular time.

At the retreat, the team made plans for 2013, oriented new members, reflected on the work of young people across the province and nurtured mind, body and spirit in a sweat lodge ceremony led by the YSI Collaborative spiritual Ojibway elder, Gerard Sagassige and our new fire keeper John Cada. The team was also trained in Developmental Evaluation theory and practice by Motivate Canada's Kathy.

The collaborative identified a number of learning questions to better capture the collective impact of youth organizing across the province and to lead to a **THEORY OF CHANGE**. These questions are centered on strategies for breaking down silos and building a community of practice for youth serving and youth led movements in Ontario. Some of the learning questions guiding the collaborative's work are:

- » What are the most important decisions that have been made?
- » Do they reflect YSI aspirations and principles?
- » What have we been able to do together that we could not do alone?
- » What new capacities have been generated?
- » What kind of systems change are we targeting?
- » What systems change have we observed?
- » What changes have been observed in individual & collective attitudes, skills and knowledge and why are these important?

SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE PLATFORMS

Shared Administrative Platforms provide administrative support and an organizational home to initiatives that would otherwise be unincorporated. Beyond financial and administrative support, many Shared Platforms offer training, mentorship and other supports to these initiatives. Shared Platforms enable groups to organize around societal concerns without having to divert energy and resources into setting up a separate organization. The platform model broadens the reach and potential impact that groups can have in the communities they work in because they leverage the expertise of community leaders, increase resident participation and access to the expertise of organizations offering the administrative support. With Tides Canada, we continued to co-convene

an ongoing conversation with Laidlaw grantees and others who are providing administrative or shared platform support to grassroots or emerging youth-led or community groups. The Shared Admin Platform research working group completed *A SHORT SURVEY* of funders supporting such platforms and groups providing platforms to resident and grassroots groups across the city. We discovered that over the past 3–5 years, funding to Shared Platforms doubled at the Ontario Trillium Foundation, increased significantly at the Toronto Community Foundation (from 10% to about 35%) and remained steady at the Laidlaw Foundation (28% of all initiatives). These are significant numbers for a model that is still in an experimental stage without a clear definition of what it is and what it is not. Yet, as the report reveals, a number of significant funding institutions have adjusted their funding policies and in effect are endorsing the shared platform model.

Jillian Witt from Tides and I also had the pleasure of launching a conversation on Shared Platforms at the Ontario Nonprofit Network Conference (ONN) in September. We also jumped on the strategic opportunity to become an ONN constellation at the invitation of ONN steering committee members. Among other benefits, this links the Shared Platform community of practice to the broader ONN network, having the potential to accelerate our work and understanding of platforms.

The Foundation has been able to support many emerging grassroots youth groups through our partnership with various shared platforms, such as Schools without Borders, Tides – The Base, Sketch and East Scarborough Storefront. We are keen to extend further research, evaluation and knowledge generation to learn:

- » What the key elements for a highly functional shared platform model are.
- » What the best practices and potential pitfalls are.
- » What sustainability looks like and what the real cost of running a shared platform is.
- » What kind of organizational systems & policies need to be implemented to do this work well.
- » What the potential effect on the nonprofit sector with the emergence of shared platforms is.

DESIGN LAB: COLLECTIVE IMPACT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN TORONTO

In partnership with the United Way Toronto and the City of Toronto, we helped launch *A DESIGN LAB* day with young people and other sector leaders on June 22, 2012 to create a plan for a collective impact process to build a powerful youth-serving system in Toronto. A dynamic core team emerged out of the day and it has been meeting to set the vision and parameters for moving forward toward a collective impact process in Toronto. It is anticipated that a large stakeholder gathering will be planned in the New Year to begin to flesh out collective outcomes for young people in Toronto.

VIOLETTA ILKIW



KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The Foundation had a busy year in either producing its own, or collaborating on, publications useful to those who work in the youth sector.

In analyzing data from our funded initiatives there emerged significant insights into the underlying values of youth-led community organizing, youth organizing strategies and tools and implications for funding practices. With our Laidlaw Learning Series of reports we hope to share the Foundation's learning with the broader community. Youth-led Community Organizing: **Strategies and Tools** is a candid reflections straight from the experiences of young people, allies and community partners involved in youth organizing work in Toronto. It offers tools and strategies to build on when working with grassroots community-based initiatives. **Values Driven Work** outlines youth-led community organizing practices and builds on insights that youth organizers and their partners shared that illuminate values underlying this work. This is a reflective exercise that aims to stimulate broader sector dialogue around the values that we embody as individuals.

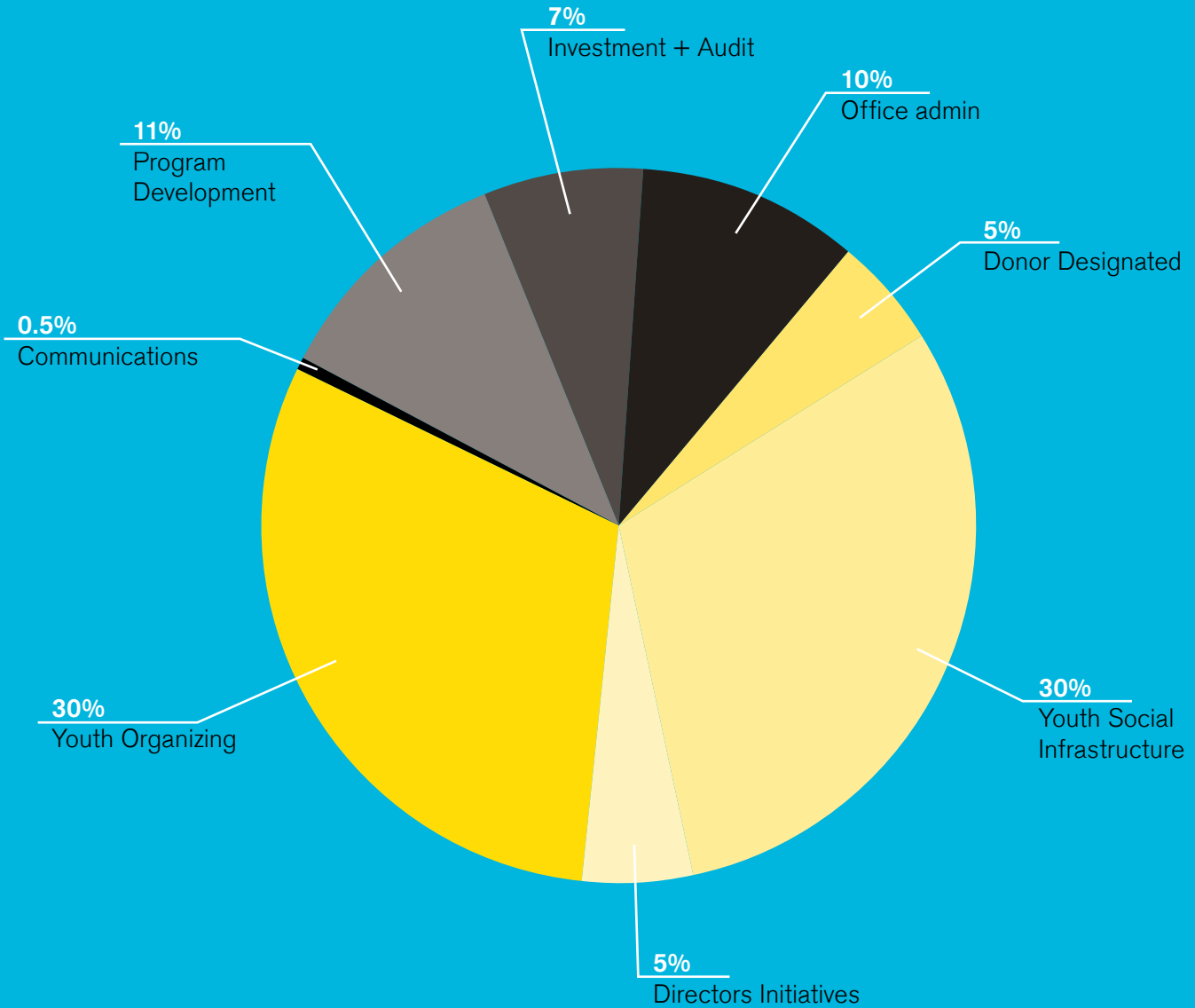
With its many partners the foundation has collaborated on a number of publications in the areas of youth social infrastructure and shared administrative platforms: the **Youth Innovation Lab Report** looks at creating

collective impact in the youth sector; **The Art of Taking Participatory Leadership to Scale** is a workbook that looks at creating the conditions for multiple perspectives to work together and reach sustained and wise action; a **report** from a fall YSI workshop identifies a number of learning questions to better capture the collective impact of youth organizing across the province that leads to a theory of change; and **Moving from Trustee to TRUSTED Collaboration** shares the results of the Shared Admin Platform Research Working Group survey of funders supporting groups providing shared administration services to grassroots groups across the city. All these highlighted reports can be found on our website.

In late 2012 we piloted an issues based digital media production program, which provided small grants to grantees who had burning issues to share with a broader public. We look forward to seeing the results in the New Year. Their videos will be posted on our website.

The Foundation also started the overhaul of its internal communications by launching a new Information Communication Technology Plan that will see us doing much of our work in the cloud. A young organization called Grantbook has been helping us and has been invaluable. We look forward to seamlessly connecting with our various constituencies!

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



EXPENDITURES 2012 BY PROGRAM AREA

Grants and charitable activities plus related expenses amounted to \$2.21 million
Office administrative expenses were \$272,661

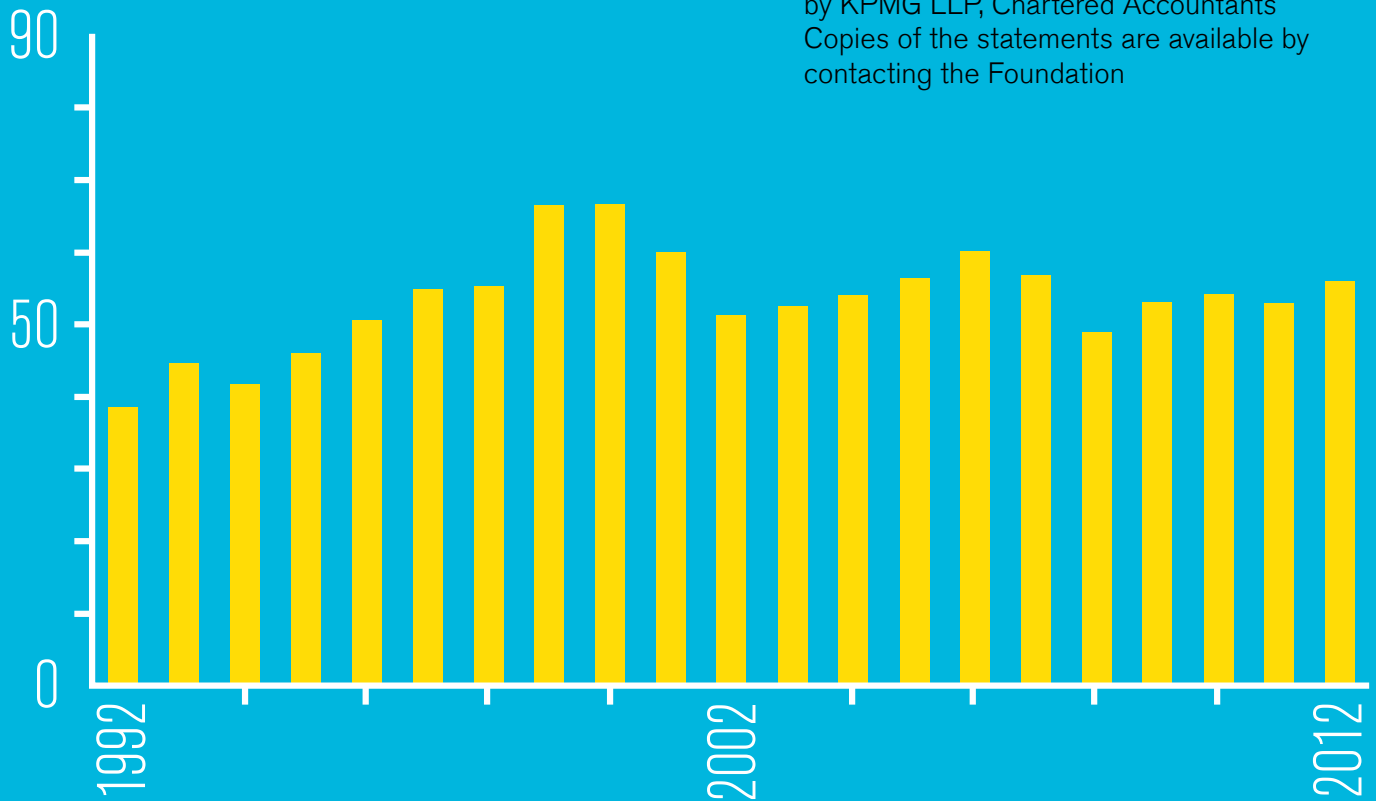


ASSETS AND GRANTS 1992 – 2012

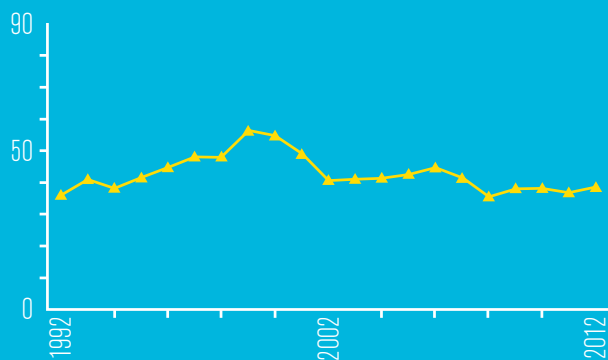
Net Assets (market value) at December 31, 2011 were \$55.7 million
Charitable expenditures since inception amounted to \$78.3 million

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

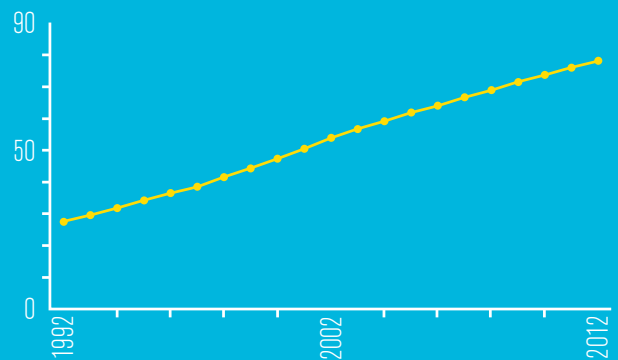
NET ASSETS



NET ASSETS IN 1990 DOLLARS



CULMULATIVE GRANTS



2012 BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Resigned or Completed term

Alina Chatterjee
Peter Caldwell
Clive Curtis
Julia Laidlaw
Mitchell Marcus
Lenore Richards
Jillian Witt

Current

Liban Abokor
Jen Apgar
Derek Ballantyne
Andrew Bedeau
John Fox
Michael Griesz
Jessica Hammell
Ravi Jain
Hanifa Kassam
Shannon Litzenberger
Brenda Pipitone
Lyon Smith

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

Clive Curtis
Jillian Witt
Liban Abokor
Andrew Bedeau
Derek Ballantyne
Brian Chu
John Fox
Nathan Gilbert
Jessica Hammell
Violetta Ilkiw
Shannon Litzenberger
Paul Nagpal
Wanda Prochazka

FINANCE AUDIT

Clive Curtis
Andrew Bedeau
John Fox
Ken Gibson
Nathan Gilbert
Shannon Litzenberger
Paul Nagpal
Wanda Prochazka



YOUTH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Alina Chatterjee
Anique Jordan
Jillian Witt
Leslie Wright
Andrew Bedeau
Jen Apgar
Dev Aujla
John Fox
Arti Freeman
Nathan Gilbert
Michael Griesz
Violetta Ilkiw
Chris Kang
Hanifa Kassam
Heather Laird
Denis Lefebvre
Paulina O'Kieffe
Shahina Sayani
Ana Skinner
Robin Sutherland
Andrea Zammit

YOUTH ORGANIZING

Mitchell Marcus
Liban Abokor
Elle Alconcel
Derek Ballantyne
Victor Beausoleil
Tsering Dolma
John Fox
Nathan Gilbert
Jessica Hammell
Violetta Ilkiw
Ravi Jain
Denis Lefebvre
Amber Morley
Helena Shimeles
Ana Skinner
Lyon Smith
Amaree Watkis
Asha Yusaf

INVESTMENT

Jillian Witt
Andrew Bedeau
Derek Ballantyne
Brian Chu
Steve Dorey
Edward J. Kwan
John Fox
Nathan Gilbert
Jessica Hammell
Heather Hunter
Shannon Litzenberger
Paul Nagpal
Wanda Prochazka
NOMINATIONS
Peter Caldwell
Alina Chatterjee
Mitchell Marcus
Lenore Richards
Jen Apgar
John Fox
Nathan Gilbert
Michael Griesz
Ana Skinner
Lyon Smith

STAFF

Susan Brand
Nathan Gilbert
Violetta Ilkiw
Denis Lefebvre
Wanda Prochazka
Shahina Sayani
Ana Skinner

**S U M M A R Y
O F A L L
F U N D E D
I N I T I A T I V E S
I N 2 0 1 2**

BOARD INITIATIVES

Child Welfare League of Canada

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 viewers guide and a website to contact a community of supporters on the issue of youth aging out of care.

Multi-year support: 2011: \$10,000; 2012: \$6,000

Helping Hands International

www.helping-hands.ca

Making Connections/Building Bridges: A Youth-Led Leadership & Capacity Building Project

This youth-led initiative aims to reduce tension and bring about reconciliation between communities around Lawrence Heights, a community that has been challenged by extreme violence. The youth will explore shared histories and work together on community safety and other issues affecting youth in both communities. \$9,875

Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win

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

Youth LEAPS

Youth LEAPS is a youth-led community based group that focuses on the educational attainment needs of Afro-diasporic or otherwise racialized, criminalized, marginalized and underserved youth living in east end priority neighbourhoods in Toronto. Youth LEAPS is strengthening its organizational infrastructure. With the support of legal, human resource and strategic planning consultants and mentors, Youth LEAPS is investing in youth leadership capacity, developing organizational policies and procedures and exploring partnerships and networks. \$11,750

YOUTH ORGANIZING

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

Outburst! – Barbara Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

www.outburstm.tumblr.com/outburst

Outburst!

Outburst! is a movement of diverse young Muslim women in Toronto who are expressing different ways in which violence affects them and what it means to define and access safety. Outburst! fills a void in mainstream discussions about violence where Muslim women's voices are often absent. This project supports capacity strengthening, peer leadership and facilitation training opportunities through the arts, journalism, spoken word, digital storytelling and other forms of expression. It exposes young women's experiences and priorities.

Health Centre

www.bcchc.com

The BeLovEd Movement is a youth-driven initiative to end gender-based violence against young women and other vulnerable groups in schools. It is a collective of young artists, activists and educators living and working in Jane and Finch, Toronto. It engages young people in preventing gendered violence through arts-based workshops, the development of public service announcements, an international women's day forum and the creation of a strategies toolkit. \$5,000

Reading Partnership for Parents – East Scarborough Store Front

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti1Q0BwOhCg

The Reading Partnership for Parents (RPP) is a youth-led group that works to combat low literacy and illiteracy in the Kingston-Galloway Orton Park community in Toronto. RPP has developed an intergenerational strategy that equips young people with skills to mentor and support local parents to teach their children to read. Through this model, young people are contributing to increasing literacy levels in their community by working with parents of young children. It empowers parents to create reading/learning environments at home, through weekly assigned lessons, and creates an environment in which parents work collaboratively to support their children's literacy development, while forming their own support network. \$24,500

Friends in Trouble

www.friendsintrouble.ca

Project Living Out Loud

Friends in Trouble is a youth-led organization committed to addressing the impact of poverty and social exclusion through arts, education and youth empowerment. It works with youth in the Jane and Finch community of Toronto. "Project Living Out Loud (LOL) engages racialized youth who identify as LGBTQI and/or those youth who have a commitment to its empowerment, to increase their capacity to identify and address issues related to access; identify processes and systems that create barriers to their participation; create community dialogue and awareness around their rights and increase their sense of belonging and safety within FIT and their communities. \$24,500

NGen (New Generation) – Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club

NGen Youth Centre

The NGen (New Generation) Youth Centre is a youth-led initiative based in Hamilton that is working with a collective of youth leaders, their peers, and community partners to reclaim and redevelop a youth drop in centre. The NGen is an inclusive, positive space where young people are supported to develop leadership, work together, and build a stronger community. This project supports capacity strengthening and leadership

development of the Youth Action Committee and youth that use this space. It supports young people to access formal and informal training opportunities, and to run pilot projects that respond to community needs. \$24,500

Kapisanan Philippine Centre

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

Seeds for Justice – Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC)

www.globalyouthconnect.ca

iSpeak

Seeds for Justice is a youth-led group working to create an inclusive youth networking space in Peterborough that engages diverse youth and provides anti-oppression training through artistic approaches. iSpeak is a youth-led participatory photography (Photovoice) project that explores newcomer, Diaspora and Peterborough youth experiences in a hands-on approach that includes photography, storytelling and interdisciplinary workshops. \$4,895

Progressive Youth Initiative – bungalow55 Community of Ideas

bungalow55 Community of Ideas

The Progressive Youth Initiative is a group of dedicated youth in the rural town of Elora that aims to actively engage and integrate youth within the community in a positive way. This project creates a platform for young people to take leadership in transforming their communities to be more youth-friendly, and socially and environmentally conscious. It supports young people to initiate projects that increase community engagement

opportunities and enable young people to explore new art forms, trades and crafts, skills, and methods for environmentally sustainable living. \$10,026

Signs of Science (S.O.S)

Instruments of Innovation: S.T.E.M. Remix

Signs of Science is a youth-led group that creates opportunities for young people living in marginalized and under resourced communities in Toronto (primarily in Jane/Finch and Rexdale) to pursue opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Signs of Science operates a S.T.E.M academic mentorship program designed to specifically land high school students living in at risk communities into post-secondary education and careers in S.T.E.M related programs. This project supports the growth and expansion of the mentorship program. \$25,000

CUE – Sketch

www.cueartprojects.ca

CUE is a radical, youth-led arts initiative dedicated to mentoring, supporting and providing arts project creation opportunities for marginalized young artists in Toronto. Over the next three years, CUE will continue to support and mentor young artists through its programming; increase opportunities for youth leadership within its operations; outreach and form community partnerships; and strengthen its overall operating structures. Multi-year support: 2012: \$50,000; 2013: 49500; 2014: \$49,500

Jamestown/Rexdale Youth Solutions Summit Group – Somali Youth Association of Toronto

www.soyat.org

Youth Solution Summit

The Jamestown/Rexdale Youth Solution Summit Group formed in November 2011 to create safe space for young people to engage in dialogue around their priorities; inform decision-making process across the community and within local agencies; and work collaboratively towards achieving concrete, youth development opportunities. The Youth Solution Summit brings local agencies, organizations and young people together to identify how these institutions can better support and respond to youth needs. Over the year, local youth will follow-up with each partner to assess their progress in relation to reaching their commitments; mobilize social media campaigns to continue to promote dialogue on community priorities; and support institutional change to better support young people. \$5,000

Somali Youth Association of Toronto

www.soyat.org

Your Road to Success

The Somali Youth Association of Toronto (SOYAT) provides youth-led, youth-driven, youth-centered culturally relevant alternative and innovative programs that foster youth community engagement. In collaboration with community partners, SOYAT is implementing a community based restorative justice train-the-trainer model that is responsive to the needs of the youth in Jamestown/Rexdale neighbourhood of Toronto. It supports youth who have been negatively impacted by criminal activity to take an active role in the process of creating a safer community. \$25,000

Speak Sudan

www.speaksudan.org

A creative Exploration of Youth in Diaspora

SpeakSudan creates safe space for Sudanese youth and East African youth in the diaspora to creatively express themselves and the issues that affect them in supportive, inclusive and safe spaces. The Creative Exploration of Youth in Diaspora project supports youth-leadership and promotes youth voice through an online and print magazine, community forums and workshops across Southern Ontario and a mentorship programs for youth to enhance their journalistic and artistic skills. It creates a network of young people across communities in Southern Ontario that brings attention to challenges and priorities of East African youth relating to settlement and integration, supports engagement in social and political issues affecting the communities, and builds a platform for these issues to be seen and heard. \$24,500

Eritrean Youth Collective (EYC) – St. Stephen's Community House

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

Project ELEL – Eritreans Learning and Empowering Leaders

The Eritrean Youth Collective is a youth-led group that provides opportunities for educational programming and community advocacy using an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, participatory and transparent framework that builds links among existing Eritrean and pan-African organizations and the Canadian society at large. Project ELEL – Eritreans Learning and Empowering Leaders is an intergenerational project that engages Eritrean youth and parents in educational attainment programs and workshops. It supports the development of culturally based resources, training for parents to be informed advocates for their children's education, and the development of an Eritrean Educators Network. \$23,900

Stolen from Africa

www.stolenfromafrica.com

Say No More

Stolen From Africa/Volé D'Afrique (SFA) is a youth-led organization that promotes cultural and historical awareness through education, fashion, music and the arts. Through facilitated discussions and workshops, young people in Toronto acquire skills on the basics of film, music and sound production and participate in personal storytelling activities and discussions on colonialism, Black Diaspora and Indigenous cultural histories in Canada. \$24,690

The Charles Prinsep Arts Initiative

www.charliesfreewheel.ca

Charlie's Community Research Initiative

The Charlie's Community Research Initiative explores the need for more community-based and locally specific knowledge around cycling and transportation access, based on the experiences of young people living in marginalized and racialized communities in Toronto. Through community mapping, cycling engagement and hands-on learning opportunities, this project documents youth perspectives on issues of mobility and transportation access in Toronto and supports youth and youth advocates to demand safe, navigable streets and accessible means of transportation in Toronto. \$25,000

180 Change Street – The Remix Project

www.180changestreet.com

180 Change Street is dedicated to inspiring positive change in young people who are incarcerated or in conflict with the law. 180 Change Street is bringing young people from different neighbourhoods in Toronto together in efforts to decrease violence and tensions by engaging youth in life skills workshops and physical health/exercise as well as mentorship to achieve personal goals in education, entrepreneurship and employment. 180 is further supporting youth to develop conflict resolution and mediation skill to engage in interpersonal and cross community dialogues. \$25,000

The Remix Project

www.theremixproject.ca

The Remix Project: Sustained

The Remix Project supports young people from disadvantaged, marginalized and underserved communities in Toronto to develop careers in urban culture industries and/or further their formal education. Over the next three years, Remix will continue to develop and implement its programming; create opportunities for its alumni to develop their portfolios and access

meaningful employment; and become more financially sustainable by implementing social enterprise strategies to diversify its funding.

Multi-year support: 2012: \$50,000; 2013: \$50,000; 2014: \$50,000

Lost Lyrics – Tides Canada Initiatives Society

www.lostlyrics.ca

Investing in Imagination: Mobilizing our Communities

Lost Lyrics is a mobile and innovative learning community that empowers young people to create a bridge between the streets and the classroom. It uses Hip Hop culture to explore self-identity and the complexities surrounding young people in stigmatized communities. Over the next three years, Lost Lyrics will continue to deliver its programming; focus on developing research, evaluation and documentation strategies and strengthen its internal operations.

Multi-year support: 2012: \$48,720; 2013: 47,900; 2014: \$47,900

Seed to Table – Tides Canada Initiatives Society

www.tidescanada.org

Seed to Table Youth Leaders Support and Organizational Development

Seed to Table and the Instars is a youth-led project that explores and addresses food and health issues in East Scarborough with a focus on nutrition, physical activity, media use and civic engagement. This project strengthens Seed to Table's capacity to address root causes of food insecurity. It also helps to increase community engagement and to meet community goals around food, health and youth engagement. \$16,489

106 & York – UrbanArts Community Arts Council

www.urbanartstoronto.org

Urban Arts Festival

106 & York is a youth led collaborative that engages young people through urban arts, primarily in North West Toronto. It supports and motivates young people who have been alienated from mainstream institutions to organize and create spaces for artistic expression in meaningful and professional ways. It runs a multi-disciplinary youth urban arts festival, mentors young people to organize the events, offers artistic development workshops and trains local emerging artists on art and business skills to support their professional development. \$24,750

Youth Association for Academics Athletics and Character Education – Black Creek Community Health Centre

www.yaaace.com/

Being Proactive Opportunity Gap Initiative

The Youth Association for Academics Athletics and Character Education (YAAACE) is a youth-led organization based in Jane and Finch, Toronto, with a mandate to create a culture of high academic achievement and social and civic responsibility among its members. The initiative helps bridge the gap between young people North and South of Finch. Through a comprehensive wrap around support model that includes after-school programs, weekend academies, summer programming, ongoing mentorship and recreational activities, this project enables mentors (University Students in Pre-Service Education Programs and Senior University Students) to support students who are traditionally marginalized and are currently showing signs of social and academic attrition. \$24,500

The Fresh Collective – Youth Action Network

<http://www.freshcollective.com/>

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





YOUTH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Children's Mental Health Ontario

www.thenewmentality.ca

The New Mentality Social Infrastructure

Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO), is a registered charity that represents and supports the providers of child and youth mental health treatment services throughout Ontario.

The New Mentality is a program of CMHO that operates at arm's length ensuring its ability to make autonomous programming decisions while maintaining the administrative support from CMHO. The New Mentality is a community of practice in youth engagement that ignites change in the mental health system and beyond. Together with youth and their allies across the province, the New Mentality mobilizes youth to decrease the stigma surrounding mental illness, and increase youth leadership and influence within community-based counselling centres. \$75,042

Children's Mental Health Ontario

www.kidsmentalhealth.ca

Youth Social Infrastructure Collaborative

The Youth Social Infrastructure Collaborative is working to accelerate and amplify the conditions for youth-led organizing in Ontario. The YSI collaborative is working to embed a developmental evaluation framework to measure its collective impact, build infrastructure among youth organizers through provincial gatherings and strengthen capacity within the core team. \$50,100

Girls Action Foundation

www.girlsactionfoundation.ca

GTA Project

Girls Action Foundation is a national charitable organization. GAF leads and seeds girls' programs across Canada. The organization focuses on building girls and young women's skills and confidence and on inspiring action to change the world. The GTA network project began in 2010–11 and fills a gap in spaces and places in the GTA for young women to gather, discuss what is happening in their communities and world, and organize to take action on some of these issues. GAF is working to establish a strong network, greater accessibility to resources, training, collaboration and mentoring. \$75,000

Manifesto Community Projects Inc.

www.themanifesto.ca

ArtDada Project

Using statistics collected from open source databases, NGOs and on-the-ground surveys, Manifesto Community Projects and ArtReach Toronto will host an experimental project to map the positive change that has occurred within Toronto since the creation of new arts programs targeting disadvantaged and at-risk youth. This pilot project will leverage new data mining and data visualization tools and repurpose them to deliver a more engaging picture of urban youth, youth employment and the power of arts collectives. Based on statistics gathered from several sources (Trillium Foundation, ArtReach, City of Toronto), this pilot project will generate stories that will be presented as dynamic visuals on a mainstream platform hosted by the Toronto Star. The goal is to turn this platform into progressive hub to reframe public discourse around youth, violence, employment and the role of arts on self-esteem and jobs. The data visuals will tell a story; but the Toronto Star's platform will be the launch pad to discuss, debate and debunk old ideas using social media strategies and new interactive videos. \$36,300

Manifesto Community Projects Inc.

www.themanifesto.ca

Manifesto Community Projects is a non-profit grassroots organization that works to unite, energize, support and celebrate Toronto's vibrant and diverse music and arts community. It finds innovative ways of working together towards common goals. Manifesto aims to provide a platform and the resources needed to advance the growth of the arts as a tool for positive change on the individual, community and city level (reaching across the GTA, Canada and in recent years, further afield, such as Manifesto Jamaica). Manifesto focuses on youth and has its origins in hip hop culture, harking back to the roots of hip hop that was full of expression, creativity and had the potential to be transformative. Manifesto will consolidate their succession planning strategy, spend time strengthening their internal structures through organizational development and strategic planning; as well as stepping back to review the future directions of Manifesto, re-focus the organizational vision and create plans for moving forward with more sustained growth. \$80,000

ArtReach Toronto – Tides Canada Initiatives Society

www.artreachtoronto.ca/

ArtReach Toronto supports local art initiatives that engage excluded youth. It provides funding to support arts initiatives in Toronto that encompass both quality arts opportunities and meaningful youth engagement. Approximately 90% of the projects supported by ArtReach are youth-led in nature. Using a high engagement approach to grant making, ArtReach Toronto combines project-based grants with technical assistance aimed at building the capacity and accountability of individual grantees and arts organizations. In addition, ArtReach provides capacity building initiatives that aim to strengthen the community of youth and young artists working towards social change in Toronto. ArtReach Toronto is a project of Tides Canada Initiatives Society (TCI). \$90,000

Tides Canada Initiatives Society

www.tidescanada.org

Community Mobilization Platform – Phase 2

Tides Canada Initiatives (TCI) is a national operating charity. It provides 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. A group of 'trailblazers' made up of young people who sat on the grassroots platform that was originally fostered by Schools Without Borders has been working on a theory of change and model for this platform within a platform framework to move forward. Emergent learning sessions allowed participants to transform their experience within the SWB platform into lessons that can help build a strong platform model within Tide. A number of community partners have been identified that will round out the capacity strengthening aspect of the model. This phase of the initiative will implement the new model, test, learn and revise as necessary. It is a learning stage that will allow the platform, platformed groups and Tides to come to understand what is possible with the model and what are its limits. The intent is to build a lost cost sustainable model. The grassroots platform at Tides has been named The Base. \$80,000

Frontline Partners With Youth Network (FPYN) – Tides Canada Initiatives Society

www.fpyn.ca

FPYN is a cross-sectoral, city-wide network of people working directly with youth. FPYN formed in 2005 because people working with youth were overwhelmed with suffering, grief and unrecognized trauma and burnout. FPYN's mission is to create a better city-wide atmosphere for youth and with youth. As people who work directly with youth, FPYN sees the systemic barriers they face and are determined to take them on. In 2012, FPYN will continue building core operations, including Mish Mash, participant directed events and supporting individual frontline workers. In addition, FPYN plans a number of shifts in their governance model, developing and implementing long term fundraising strategies, getting membership/ volunteer management practices in place, synthesizing the evolution of FPYN to date and developing and implementing the ICT plan that will continue to decentralize the work – all through the lens of a mission toward sustainability. \$101,500

The People Project – Tides Canada Initiatives Society

www.thepeopleproject.ca/

Tides Canada Initiatives (TCI) mission is to lead and support actions that foster a healthy environment and just society. TCI is a shared administrative platform that provides professional organizational support (e.g. accounting, finance, HR, regulatory compliance) to environmental and social justice projects. In July of 2012, People Project became an initiative of a new project of Tides Canada called The Base (formerly known as the Youth Organizing Platform/"The Platform"). The Base supports emerging initiatives to strengthen and increase access to community based change making, by combining quality administrative support with capacity building and opportunities for collective learning and action. The People Project is administered by Tides through The Base. 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, creating shared understanding and conditions for collective decision making. It works closely with Toronto's LGBT youth community providing participatory arts and leadership programs as well as collaborating on innovative arts and advocacy projects. It 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. \$65,000

ISSUES BASED DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

Agincourt Community Services Association

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

I Do

To create a Public Service Announcement video that raises awareness about forced marriage violence against girls and women that is happening in Canada and the GTA. \$2,000

East Scarborough Store Front

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

KGO Literacy Landscape

For an investigative video on the issue of deficiencies in literacy supports in the Kingston Galloway Orton Park community of Toronto. \$2,200

Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club

<http://www.kboysandgirlsclub.com/>

Youth Space

An examination of the importance of youth space, this video interrogates the logic and community impacts of the loss of drop-in, open, youth-positive spaces. \$2,000

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