

Good to Give



A CATALOGUE OF DONATION-READY ORGANIZATIONS
AND PROJECTS IN OUR COMMUNITY



TORONTO
FOUNDATION



Above: Volunteers at The Stop Community Food Centre

Cover: FoodShare Toronto chef Jesus Gomez, Vital People Grant recipient 2016.

Welcome to Toronto Foundation's inaugural Good to Give guide.

We are pleased to share with you the list of community organizations we have reviewed and recommended for funding this year.

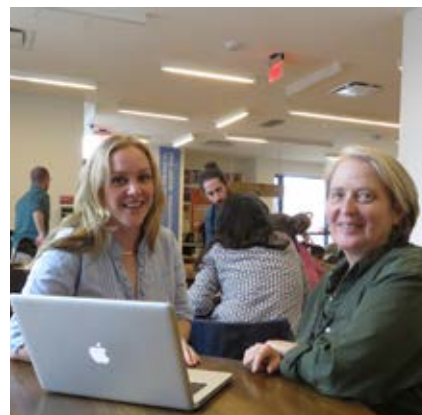
Each of the listed organizations has been vetted by staff and volunteers. We have long and deep relationships with some of these organizations. Others are new to us, like some of the organizations we supported to carry out special initiatives to mark Canada's sesquicentennial.

All of the organizations in this booklet are supporting people and communities in our city to transform the lives of Torontonians, and help them live up to their full potential.

We hope you will consider them in your giving this year.

To make a grant, please email Torey Kehoe, Fundholder Engagement Officer, tkehoe@torontofoundation.ca or call 416-921-2035 ext. 230.

Thank you!



Above: Adria Kain performs at Vital Toronto 2016, Toronto Foundation Staff on Habitat for Humanity build site, past grantee Small Change Fund.

Housing

Safe and affordable housing is key to the health and well-being of Toronto residents. Households must spend 30% or less of their income on housing for it to be considered affordable. Expenditure of 50% or more greatly increases the risk of homelessness. High housing prices are causing some Toronto residents, especially young adults, to consider leaving. Supporting housing is not just about bricks and mortar. The following organizations are assisting Torontonians who are vulnerable to homelessness, living in social housing or face barriers to accessing stable housing.

Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation

Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA) works with tenants, landlords, community partners and the public to end housing discrimination and prevent homelessness in Ontario. Their programs include tenant support, public engagement and education, and legal initiatives that challenge the housing status quo. This year CERA is working with members of marginalized communities who have experienced housing vulnerability to better understand their needs.

Learn more at www.equalityrights.org/cera

Riverdale Housing Action Group

Since 1986, Riverdale Housing Action Group (RHAG) has provided low- to modest-income tenants from some of Toronto's most vulnerable communities with safe, affordable housing. RHAC opened the Riverdale Housing Animation Programs (RHAP) in 1997 to provide support services to its tenants and their children, including educational, social, and recreational programs designed to increase inclusion. This year, RHAP will host the Riverdale Housing Multicultural Celebration, a one-day event to celebrate the foods, cultures and histories of their diverse tenants. *Learn more at www.rhag.ca*

Good to Give Tip.

Learn about "Housing First" as a strategy to alleviate poverty and related issues.

Good physical and mental health are vitally linked to, and affected by, income, stable and appropriate housing, a safe and walkable neighbourhood, strong social networks, and a high level of education. The absence of some or all of those factors contributes to the likelihood of a city resident experiencing, for example, diabetes, depression, or obesity. The following organizations are contributing to the development of strong, healthy Torontonians.

Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Access Alliance provides services to address system inequities and improve health outcomes for some of Toronto's most vulnerable immigrants, refugees, and their communities across Toronto. Access Alliance supports people who face barriers to good health by providing them access to high quality programs and services ranging from primary health care, settlement services, translation services, and programming for women, the LGBTQ* community, marginalized youth and more. This year, Access Alliance is expanding its youth sports and recreation program to offer instruction, snacks, transportation and gear to 50 underserved youth. [Learn more at www.accessalliance.ca](http://www.accessalliance.ca)

Black Creek Community Farm

Toronto's largest urban farm, Black Creek Community Farm (BCCF) serves and enriches the Jane-Finch community by growing healthy food and offering hands-on training and learning experiences. Founded by the Everdale Environmental Learning Centre, FoodShare and African Food Basket, the BCCF focuses on improving food security, reducing social isolation, and improving employment and education outcomes. This year, the BCCF will hire youth interns to build their knowledge of food systems, increase their employability skills, and expose them to opportunities in the food/agribusiness sector. [Learn more at www.blackcreekfarm.ca](http://www.blackcreekfarm.ca)

Not Far From The Tree

Not Far From The Tree (NFFTT) mobilizes volunteers to pick, collect, and share fruit from trees across Toronto. The fruit is divided by thirds to the tree owner, the volunteers, and to community organizations in need, like food banks and shelters, strengthening community connectedness and food security at the local level. This year NFFTT is expanding and evolving their programming to new neighbourhoods in response to requests from the inner-suburbs. [Learn more at www.notfarfromthetree.org](http://www.notfarfromthetree.org)

The Stop Community Food Centre

Beginning its operations as one of Canada's first food banks, The Stop has evolved over the years to provide not only drop-in meals, a food bank, and community kitchens and gardens, but also perinatal and family support, and effective civic engagement programs for marginalized and socially isolated people in the Davenport West and Christie/St. Clair areas. The Stop's innovative social inclusion model has program participants and non-participant volunteers working side-by-side to grow food, cook meals and build community. After a recent evaluation, The Stop will improve their volunteers' experience by more deeply embedding anti-oppression/anti-racism into the program. [Learn more at www.thestop.org](http://www.thestop.org)

Health & Wellness

Distress Centres of Toronto

Founded in 1967, Distress Centres is the oldest suicide prevention agency in Canada. Through a team of highly trained volunteers, they deliver mental health support services and provide impactful telephone, online, and text based crisis intervention. Distress Centres clients are facing increasingly complex mental health challenges. As a result, this year Distress Centres is incorporating Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT), a leading psychotherapeutic approach, into their treatment model.

Learn more at www.torontodistresscentre.com

The Neighbourhood Group

The Neighbourhood Group is a multi-service agency improving and enhancing peoples' lives and helping them live independently and with dignity. The Neighbourhood Group's programs and services support seniors, at-risk children and youth, those who are searching for employment, people who are homeless or precariously housed and people with mental health challenges living in Toronto's east down-town area. Neighbourhood Group's youth program, KickStart Crew, is a popular, youth-led initiative where participants drive the program agenda. One key focus is an interactive cooking segment that includes meal planning, budgeting, food safety, and food preparation. Youth learn how to cook healthy meals and are able to take them home to share with their families, or serve them to the younger kids in the program.

Learn more at www.theneighbourhoodgroup.org

Recipe for Community

(In partnership between Toronto Foundation and the City of Toronto)

Recipe for Community uses the universal language of food to bring communities together to connect with one another, build skills, and beautify shared neighbourhood spaces. Each year, Recipe For Community chooses a new neighbourhood that needs a boost in resources and opportunities. So far, they have worked with residents and community partners in Rexdale, Alexandra Park, St. James Town, Weston Mt. Dennis and Scarborough Village. *Learn more at www.tinyurl.com/RecipeForCommunity*

Scadding Court Community Centre

Scadding Court Community Centre (SCCC) supports and fosters the well-being of individuals, families, and community groups by providing and encouraging both local and international opportunities for recreation, education, athletics, community participation and inclusive social interaction. The SCCC's programs and services are geared toward under-served, culturally diverse groups including low-income women, children and families, newcomers, at-risk youth, people with disabilities, older adults, seniors and people who are unemployed. This year, the SCCC opened a weekly youth-dedicated space to facilitate mentorship, leadership development, and health and wellness for local at-risk and newcomer teens.

Learn more at www.scaddingcourt.org

Good to Give Tip.

Consider multi-year giving so organizations can plan for bigger impact.

Health & Wellness

UHN OpenLab

The University Health Network (UHN)'s OpenLab has been experimenting with new ways to improve healthcare for complex patients since 2009. Openlab uses the entire health system itself as its laboratory, bringing together clinicians, patients, researchers, designers, policymakers and filmmakers to tackle pressing issues at the intersection of health and society. OpenLab is currently working on a healthy living project to bring a wildly successful model started in Kingston, Ont. for senior independent living and senior-led programming to Toronto. [Learn more at www.uhnopenlab.ca](http://www.uhnopenlab.ca)



Above: Christine MacMillan, founder of Oasis - A healthy senior living model run by the senior residents themselves in Kingston, Ontario. UHN OpenLab is working with Christine to bring the model to Toronto.

Indigenous Toronto

Toronto is home to a vibrant Indigenous arts scene, a growing Indigenous middle class, a network of culture-based support agencies, and an estimated 70,000 Indigenous people. Despite these successes, many Indigenous Torontonians face the same challenges experienced by Indigenous people throughout Canada, including racism, discrimination, poverty, gaps in educational achievement, income inequity, increased health risks and barriers to employment and adequate housing. Historically, the funding community has had little relationship with Indigenous communities. The following organizations are leading reconciliation by helping to heal and educate, for a better, more equitable future for all of us.

Canadian Roots Exchange

Canadian Roots Exchange (CRE) builds bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in Canada by facilitating dialogue and strengthening relationships through leadership programs. CRE trains youth volunteers to promote reconciliation in their communities, hosts a yearly youth reconciliation conference, runs land-based experiential exchange trips to Indigenous communities, and hosts youth-led reconciliation workshops. This year CRE launched a four-part community dialogue series to amplify the histories and realities of Indigenous, newcomer, and racialized youth. [Learn more at www.canadianroots.ca](http://www.canadianroots.ca)

imagineNATIVE

The world's largest Indigenous film festival, Toronto-based imagineNATIVE creates a greater understanding of Indigenous peoples and cultures through contemporary Indigenous-made media art. Between festivals, imagineNATIVE screens its films in multi-ethnic community centres across the GTA and supports Indigenous artists through workshops, commissions and mentorship. This year's film festival will be in its 18th year, and happening October 18-22. [Learn more at www.imagenative.org](http://www.imagenative.org)

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto

Native Child and Family Services Toronto (NCFST) is a multi-service Indigenous agency providing services to improve well-being, caring, and healing for Indigenous families in the GTA. NCFST uses a holistic, culture-based approach to all its programs and services, and is a Children's Aid Society under the Child and Family Services Act. This year, youth participating in the NCFST's culinary entrepreneurship program will take part in culture-based, interactive workshops and build professional skills in commercial kitchens operations, the food services industry, and small business management. [Learn more at www.nativechild.org](http://www.nativechild.org)

Good to Give Tip.

Do your research to find the high-impact organizations working on your issue.

Indigenous Toronto

Red Pepper Spectacle Art

Red Pepper Spectacle Arts (RPSA) is a community arts organization that works with social service agencies, community health and educational institutions, municipalities, band councils and neighbourhood residents to engage Indigenous people in artistic creation. Using the power of art to unite, empower and educate, RPSA strives towards greater social justice and equity in cultural production. This year, RPSA partnered with the Native Men's Residence or Na-Me-Res to run an Anishinaabek traditional knowledge art project in which Indigenous men created baby carriers called tikinaagan, or cradleboards.

Learn more at www.redpepperspectacle.com

Toronto & York Region Métis Council

The Toronto & York Region Métis Council represents individuals and communities in our region that are a part of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). On October 15, 2017 the Toronto & York Region Métis Council will host a Toronto and York Region's first Rendezvous, a public gathering to bring together Métis and non-Métis peoples in celebration of Métis culture and history. The Council also wishes to launch a research project this year to capture the historical narrative of Métis people in Toronto and York Region.

Learn more at www.torontoyorkmetis.com

Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games Host Society

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) are a multi-sport, multi-disciplinary event involving Indigenous athletes from North America. Through sport competitions and a vibrant cultural program, the Games showcase Indigenous cultures and demonstrate the positive power of sport on Indigenous youth and communities. The Toronto 2017 NAIG will host more than 5,000 participants in venues across the GTHA. This year, the Games will showcase contributions of Ontario's Indigenous athletes to 150 years of Canadian Sport History. *Learn more at www.naig2017.to*



Public Space & The Environment

To handle the effects of changes to our climate, such as increasing and severe weather events, our natural and built environments must be in good shape. Features such as an abundant tree canopy that help improve air quality and other health indicators are key to the city's resilience. Parks and other public spaces are where people come together build social capital, and enhance health and quality of life for all residents.

Ecologos Environmental Organization

Ecologos is dedicated to protecting water, using documentary storytelling and experiential learning to revive a sense of reverence, address threats and stir action. They work across Toronto and the province through three compelling programs: their annual Water Docs Film Festival in Toronto; an environmental learning program for Ontario Grade 8 students; and, a community-based film series in Ontario towns and neighbourhoods. This year, Ecologos will run a day-long water walk and celebration along Toronto's Waterfront Trail that brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants together to draw attention to the value of the Great Lakes. [Learn more at www.waterdocs.ca](http://www.waterdocs.ca)

Friends of the Pan Am Path

Founded by a team of DiverseCity Fellows and artists in 2012, Friends is motivated by connecting the downtown core and inner suburbs. This non-profit combines the power of art and active living towards creating a legacy trail across Toronto. The Pan Am Path is a multi-use path stretching 80km from North Etobicoke to Scarborough East. In concert with continued trail builds by the City of Toronto, this summer-fall will see a new selection of visual arts and active living programs. [Learn more at www.relay2017.ca](http://www.relay2017.ca)

Heritage Toronto

Heritage Toronto is a charitable arms-length agency of the City of Toronto, established to promote a greater appreciation for the city's rich architectural, cultural, archaeological and natural heritage. Through partnerships with local community groups and volunteers, Heritage Toronto provides city-wide programs and services. This year, to mark Canada 150, Heritage Toronto will partner with over 20 community groups to host the Parks Past festival, a celebration of Toronto parks, their histories and how they have influenced and been shaped by Torontonians. [Learn more at www.heritagetoronto.org](http://www.heritagetoronto.org)

Laneway Project

The Laneway Project helps improve Toronto's 2,400 laneways, including supporting local residents to beautify their laneways, adding greenery, hosting community events, addressing lighting, safety, and housing issues, and consulting with the City on laneway-friendly policies. Improved laneways provide new spaces for communities to interact, move through the neighbourhood, and create local pride. This year, the Laneway Project worked with Ramsden Park Road residents and businesses to develop a master plan to catalyse the space's transformation. [Learn more at www.thelanewayproject.ca](http://www.thelanewayproject.ca)

Good to Give Tip.

Giving unrestrictedly or directly to overhead can enable organizations to be nimble and responsive to change.

Public Space & The Environment

MABELLEarts

MABELLEarts brings professional artists and community members of all ages and backgrounds together to create performances, workshops and events that unlock the creative potential of neglected public spaces. Serving largely newcomer communities in Central Etobicoke, MABELLEarts celebrates cultural traditions, differences and points of connection to help spark collaboration as a creative force for change. This year, MABELLEarts' Youth Leaders ran a youth mentorship program to develop and host an intercultural Eid al-Fitr celebration in Mabelle Park, at the heart of the Mabelle neighbourhood.

Learn more at www.mabellearts.ca

Moorelands Community Services

Moorelands Community Services provides Toronto's children and youth affected by poverty with positive and fun experiences to help strengthen their confidence, competence and character. Program participants develop and practice critical thinking and decision making, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal skills like communication and conflict resolution. This year to mark Canada 150, youth will go to Mooreland's Wilderness camp in Muskoka and create a six-week nature walk timeline to celebrate significant moments in Canadian history and to map their hopes for future. *Learn more at www.moorelands.ca*

Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation

Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation has been helping Toronto transform its parks and green spaces since 2002. They work with the City of Toronto, community groups, neighbourhoods, individuals, and businesses to reimagine local parks and improve the health of Toronto's urban forest. Through city-wide collaboration, they support tree planting and stewardship efforts and provide parks and green space enhancements that cannot be achieved through public funding alone. *Learn more at www.torontoparksandtrees.ca*



Above: Toronto Foundation staff and others on a tour of Daniels Artscape Launchpad in spring 2017. This space is the recipient of Toronto Foundation's second social impact investment.

Diversity & Inclusion

Vibrant cities are those where residents are engaged and feel that they belong, where civic institutions reflect the diversity of the population, and where strong social connections unite people to one another (research consistently links a sense of belonging with good physical and mental health). The following organizations are working to build an inclusive city, especially for residents living on the margins.

Agincourt Community Services Association

Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA) is a multi-service agency empowering children, youth, seniors, newcomers, homeless and underserved communities to build a better tomorrow in Scarborough. ACSA addresses systemic poverty, hunger, housing, homelessness, unemployment, accessibility and social isolation by acting as a bridge between people who need help and those who can provide it. This year, ASCA is running a workshop series where community members can learn about Canada's history of civic participation in equity, inclusion and multiculturalism. [Learn more at www.agincourtcommunityservices.com](http://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com)

CultureLink Settlement and Community Services

CultureLink delivers innovative settlement services to newcomers, helping them find employment, navigate the school system, and provide youth with the skills necessary for bright and successful futures. This year, CultureLink is working with local Indigenous organizations to introduce Indigenous histories and cultures to newcomers. Through cultural workshops and guided bus, museum and bike tours, newcomers will learn about the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples in Canada. [Learn more at www.culturelink.ca](http://www.culturelink.ca)

East Scarborough Storefront

East Scarborough provides support to community members and partner agencies serving residents in the Kingston-Galloway-Orton Park (KGO) community. The one-stop-shop supports partner agencies as they provide a range of services, including job search support, mental health counselling, and youth and seniors programming. This year, the Storefront's four youth programs collaboratively create a united, peer-led youth network to amplify youth's voices and advocate for their needs within the organization.

[Learn more at www.thestorefront.org](http://www.thestorefront.org)

Egale Canada Human Rights Trust

Egale Canada Human Rights Trust is Canada's only national charity promoting LGBTQ* human rights through research, education and community engagement. Egale's outreach program offers individual counselling, homelessness and suicide crisis services for LGBTQ* youth. This year, as part of Canada 150 activities, Egale will capture and share stories of those who participated in historically significant LGBTQ* events in Canada, like Toronto's first Pride Parade. [Learn more at www.egale.ca](http://www.egale.ca)

Frontlines

Frontlines offers programs and services that tackle the pressing needs of children and youth in Weston and the surrounding neighbourhoods. By building relationships and providing programs that address the whole child, Frontlines fosters and restores wellness and respect among diverse people. This year, Frontlines and the Self-Love Youth Empowerment Project are jointly running a wellness program for girls designed to build their physical and mental wellness. [Learn more at www.frontlines.to](http://www.frontlines.to)

Diversity & Inclusion

Harmony Movement

Founded in 1994, Harmony Movement fosters diversity and combats all forms of discrimination to dismantle the barriers preventing individuals from fully participating in society. By providing experiential diversity and equity education and leadership programs, they promote equity, diversity, and inclusion and empower people of all ages to become leaders for social change. [Learn more at www.harmony.ca](http://www.harmony.ca)

Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre

The Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre is a multi-service, community-based organization working to reduce poverty through resident engagement, capacity building and anti-oppression. The Centre builds health and well-being in the Jane and Finch community through programs focused on children, youth, seniors, mental health, newcomer settlement and financial empowerment. Its youth program which runs out of Westgate Mall has considerable credibility among local youth, having been in place for many years. The program empowers and inclusively engages youth to support the governance of the space and activities, giving youth partial ownership of program spaces and authority of programs offered.

[Learn more at www.janefinchcentre.org](http://www.janefinchcentre.org)

Leadership, Espoir, Opportunité

Leadership, Espoir, Opportunité (LEO) was founded by a Canadian woman originally from Cameroon to advance the social and economic empowerment of young female Francophone immigrants. This year LEO will offer a two day leadership camp at a summer camp outside Toronto for young Torontonians Francophone immigrant and racialized girls and women to learn about diversity, inclusion, and civic engagement. [Learn more at www.passerelle-ide.com/lapasserelle-i-d-e/charite-leo](http://www.passerelle-ide.com/lapasserelle-i-d-e/charite-leo)

Making Room Community Arts

Making Room Community Arts is a radically inclusive, interdisciplinary arts company dedicated to community cultural development and bringing art into everyday life. They work with people living in the margins in order to put them in the centre of the story. This year, Making Room will work with elder artists in South Parkdale to plan a celebration of the diverse histories and cultures found in just one city block. [Learn more at www.making-room.org](http://www.making-room.org)

Matthew House Refugee Reception Services

Matthew House runs three homes in Toronto for newly arrived refugee claimants who would otherwise be homeless. In addition to safe shelter, Matthew House provides nutritious meals, orientation to life in Canada, settlement into permanent accommodation, and help with the complex process of making a refugee claim in Canada. It has grown to include two other long-term transition homes for particularly vulnerable refugees, such as unaccompanied minors, and has been the catalyst for the establishment of six other similar shelters in Canada. This year, Matthew House will be expanding its Mock Refugee Hearing program. The program works with volunteer lawyers, retired immigration adjudicators and others to ensure that refugee claimants understand the system and are properly prepared by performing simulations of the hearing in a realistic environment. [Learn more at www.matthewhouse.ca](http://www.matthewhouse.ca)

Diversity & Inclusion

North York Community House

North York Community House (NYCH) supports its diverse community to achieve its goals, and to enhance the strength and resilience of North York neighbourhoods. Through programs that build skills, leadership and connections, NYCH supports newcomer settlement and positive child, youth and family development. This year, NYCH will host activity-based discussions and field trips for newcomers, youth, and racialized and low-income people to increase their knowledge about Canadian democracy and civic engagement.

Learn more at www.nych.ca

The Ward Museum

The Ward Museum is working to establish Toronto's first museum of migration to preserve and share the important stories of migrants in the city's history. It is named after The Ward, the Toronto area where early immigrant communities first settled and is now a densely populated neighbourhood in downtown Toronto. This year, the Ward Museum will run a series of community-led events inviting tourists and Torontonians to learn about the people and stories of those included in, and left out of, the 1871 census (the first census after Confederation). *Learn more at www.wardmuseum.ca*



Above: The Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA), a past Vital Toronto Fund grant recipient.

Good to Give Tip:

Consider a range of granting. Nonprofits, large and small, rely on donor funding to grow and innovate.

An educated labour force is more critical than ever as the labour market shifts to a focus on knowledge work. But learning is affected by many factors, including poverty, mental and physical health, safety and the presence of necessary supports. Schools, childcare centres, arts programs, and robust physical education give children lifelong advantages. The following organizations are giving all Torontonians opportunities to learn and grow.

Beyond 3:30

(In partnership with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success)

Beyond 3:30 provides homework support, recreation, skills development, and mentorship to middle school students in Toronto's underserved communities between 3:30 and 7:30 – a time of day when they are most vulnerable. They operate right in schools, making it safe and easy for students to attend. There's a big focus on nutrition, as well as sports and physical fitness. Their Junior Chefs' Club is a big draw, and brings many new students to the program. And, with programs like the Financial Literacy Course and Homework Support, Beyond 3:30 students not only become more prepared to succeed in high school, but also in life itself. Their Homework staff are teachers' college graduates who liaise directly with daytime school staff to make sure children get the support they need. [Learn more at www.tfss.ca/our-programs/beyond-3-30](http://www.tfss.ca/our-programs/beyond-3-30)

Canadian Language Museum

The Canadian Language Museum (CLM) was established in 2011 to promote an appreciation of all the languages spoken in Canada (Indigenous, official, and heritage) and their role in the development of this nation. CLM has created five travelling exhibits, which tour universities, museums, libraries, schools, and community centres across Canada. Recently, an exhibit space has been opened at York University and interactive activities for gallery visitors are being developed. [Learn more at www.languagemuseum.ca](http://www.languagemuseum.ca)

Charlie's FreeWheels

Charlie's FreeWheels (CFW) runs bicycle-based programming to build confidence and leadership skills in youth and drive positive social change. By teaching bicycle mechanics, offering weekly group rides through the city, hosting field trips, and hiring program alumni, CFW is supporting the development of empowered young leaders engaged with cycling issues in Toronto. This year, CFW will offer additional training opportunities to youth enrolled in their fall programs, as well as employment opportunities for past program participants, to build transferrable skills and increase their employability into the future.

[Learn more at www.charliesfreewheels.ca](http://www.charliesfreewheels.ca)

Friends of Fort York

In addition to maintaining the integrity of the Fort York National Historic Site, Friends of Fort York is committed to the well-being of the surrounding neighbourhood. The group supports educational, historical and community programs and events designed to increase understanding about the War of 1812 era and Fort York's role in the development of modern day Toronto. This year, Friends of Fort York and the TDSB will develop an Indigenous education module focusing on Indigenous peoples' historic relationship with Fort York. [Learn more at www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca)

Learning

Mentoring Junior Kids Organization

Mentoring Junior Kids Organization (MJKO) uses non-contact boxing training and leadership programs to promote positive and healthy lifestyle choices for youth in several of Toronto's underserved neighbourhoods. Through athletic training programs, youth develop social and mental skills, learn about nutrition, and become committed to the non-boxing community. This year, MJKO will expand its youth sport training program by giving youth alumni more opportunities for employment and coaching certification. [Learn more at www.mjko.ca](http://www.mjko.ca)

Outward Bound Canada

Outward Bound Canada cultivates resilience, leadership, connections and compassion through inspiring and challenging journeys of self-discovery in the natural world. By using a unique and educational framework, Outward Bound's wilderness expeditions and programs help build a more resilient and compassionate world. This summer, Outward Bound Canada will run a cross-cultural expedition program to connect Indigenous and non-Indigenous, newcomer and Canadian, underserved and privileged Toronto youth, where they will gain an understanding for each other's cultures and mutual respect for one another and the land. [Learn more at www.outwardbound.ca](http://www.outwardbound.ca)

Right To Play Canada

Right To Play (RTP) is a global organization that uses the transformative power of play to educate and empower children and youth facing adversity. Through sports and games, RTP helps children build essential life skills and better futures, while driving social change in their communities with lasting impact. RTP's Youth To Youth (Y2Y) program engages youth living in underserved Toronto neighbourhoods in peer-led recreation programming at their schools and community centres. This year, Y2Y is aiming to expand programming to additional sites, engage more youth leaders and send them to RTP's annual Youth Leadership Symposium. [Learn more at www.righttoplay.ca/Learn/ourstory/Pages/Youth-To-Youth.aspx](http://www.righttoplay.ca/Learn/ourstory/Pages/Youth-To-Youth.aspx)

Toronto Sport Leadership Program

(In partnership with YMCA Toronto and the City of Toronto)

Toronto Sport Leadership Program creates opportunities for growth and meaningful employment for marginalized youth through specialized sport and coaching training certification. Since its inception in 2006, over 1,900 students have completed the program. The City of Toronto and the YMCA have both benefited by having these dedicated and enthusiastic graduates work at camps, pools and sport programs. In addition to sport certification and employment, the program also offers comprehensive job readiness support. [Learn more at www.torontosportleadershipprogram.com](http://www.torontosportleadershipprogram.com)

Trinity Theatre Toronto

Trinity Theatre creates "theatre outside of theatre", offering innovative and experiential leadership programs for schools, workplaces and communities. They develop peer leadership programs in schools across Canada that give youth the ability to balance their social, emotional, and ethical development with their need for academic achievement. [Learn more at www.trinitytheatre.ca](http://www.trinitytheatre.ca)

Good to Give Tip:

Consider giving to organizations working to address root causes of problems.

Tropicana Community Services

Tropicana Community Services is a multi-service organization that provides youth, newcomers, people of Black and Caribbean heritage and others in need with opportunities for success and positive life choices. Tropicana offers culturally appropriate counselling, child care, educational and employment services and youth development programs. This year, Tropicana will deliver an inclusive youth sports and recreation program to foster healthy lifestyles and leadership and life skills.

Learn more at www.tropicanacommunity.org

Visions of Science Network For Learning

Visions of Science Network for Learning advances the educational achievements and career aspirations of youth from low-income, racialized, and marginalized communities across the GTHA through meaningful engagement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields and research. They provide free, on-going opportunities for youth who commonly fall through the cracks of the education system to access fun, hands-on STEM learning. Since 2011, the group has scaled from six communities in Toronto to 20 across the GTHA impacting 300 youth annually, including youth living in social housing in 13 different Toronto neighbourhoods. Requests for programming in new neighbourhoods continue to grow, and they have at least six serious prospects from communities in the city of Toronto alone currently in the pipeline.

Learn more at www.vosnl.org

Youth Action Network

Youth Action Network (YAN) is a youth-led charity that empowers youth and their allies to take an active role in social change through education and resource development. YAN's Propeller program supports young people to become engaged, informed, and active citizens by helping them start and manage their own community development projects. This year, YAN is aiming to improve the Propeller program's services and reach by strategizing how to better engage marginalized youth and reduce their barriers to accessing YAN resources and services. *Learn more at www.youthactionnetwork.org*



Above: Staff and program participants from previous grantees: LostLyrics, UNITY Charity, and The Watah School

Arts & Culture

A thriving arts and cultural community is a sign of a city's ability to innovate, solve problems, attract visitors, and entice talented new residents from around the world. Toronto's lively arts environment helps to welcome and integrate newcomers, celebrate our heritage, and imagine a better city. It is also a key sector that contributes substantially to our local, provincial, and national economies. The following organizations are helping to enrich the arts in Toronto by providing opportunities for everyone to create.

Art Gallery of York University

The Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) is a public contemporary art gallery showcasing works by Canadian and international artists on the cutting edge of contemporary art. Through education initiatives and a publishing program, AGYU stimulates reflection, inquiry, and debate on contemporary art. This year, AGYU proposes to run peer-led writing, performance and spoken word poetry workshops for under-served youth in Scarborough and Weston. *Learn more at <http://theagyuisouthere.org/everywhere/>*

Art Starts Neighbourhood Cultural Centre

Art Starts uses the arts to inspire long-term social change and brings together professional artists with residents of all ages to create accessible and dynamic art projects that reflect the identities and aspirations of each community. Their collaborative approach to art-making celebrates communities, nurtures resiliency, cultivates life-skills and inspires personal growth. This year, Art Starts is engaging youth in a collaborative map-making art project to restore Indigenous place names in five underserved neighbourhoods across Toronto. *Learn more at www.artstarts.net*

The Canadian Stage Corporation

One of Canada's leading not-for-profit theatre companies, Canadian Stage is a home, incubator and exporter of Canadian and international theatre. Through workshops, mentorship and training programs, Canadian Stage supports accessibility and inclusion, builds diverse audiences, actively engages youth and fosters the development of future artistic leaders. This year, Canadian Stage will run a performing arts program that tells stories of newcomer youth and families and explores the role of the land in forming Canadian identity. *Learn more at www.canadianstage.com*

The Children's Book Bank and Literacy Foundation

The Children's Book Bank builds literacy in low income communities in Toronto by distributing free books and providing literacy activities to children and their families at its storefront in Regent Park and through community partners. This year, the Children's Book Bank has engaged prominent Canadians to share their favourite Canadian children's book via video. Every week from March to July, one of the championed books will be read during Saturday story-time, and readers' reactions to the book will be shared on-line. *Learn more at www.childrensbookbank.com*

Crow's Theatre

Located at Carlaw and Dundas, Crow's Theatre is a small theatre creating, producing, and promoting unforgettable theatre that examines the pivotal narratives of our times. Crow's Theatre develops emerging and mid-career Canadian playwrights through commissions, residencies, and extended play development. In Spring 2017, Crow's Theatre ran the wildly successful *Freedom Singer*, a theatrical and musical experience telling the story of a Black man searching for a denied history in the songs of the Underground Railroad. *Learn more at www.crowstheatre.com*

Jumblies Theatre

Jumblies is a radical, inclusive Toronto-based arts organization that expands where art happens, who gets to be part of it, what form it takes and which stories it tells. Through collaboration with professional artists and diverse people and communities, Jumblies dismantles boundaries to make art in everyday and extraordinary places. This year, Jumblies will be working with a range of emerging artists on a large-scale educational art project at Fort York National Historic Site to explore Toronto's relationships with buried Indigenous histories and Confederation. [Learn more at www.jumbliestheatre.org](http://www.jumbliestheatre.org)

Nai Syrian Refugee Children's Choir & Friends

Through quality music education and settlement interventions, Nai Syrian Refugee Children's Choir & Friends facilitates the healing, learning, rejoicing and integration of Syrian refugee children and their families. This year, the choir will collaborate with musicians of different ages, genres, and backgrounds to create art that celebrates diversity and inclusion. They will be performing in spaces throughout the city including Queen's Park, the ROM, City Hall, and more. [Learn more at www.culturelink.ca/nai](http://www.culturelink.ca/nai)

The Regent Park School of Music

Regent Park School of Music (RPSM) is a non-profit community music school giving children and youth from Toronto's high-risk neighbourhoods a quality music education that will help them succeed in life. RPSM students have access to over 80 dedicated music teachers and study everything from classical piano and violin to turntablism and electronic music. To celebrate Canada 150, RPSM will host a one-day carnival-style music and arts event in Regent Park. Over 100 young RPSM music students will take part in performing eight original songs about local kids' lives and Canadian stories. [Learn more at www.rpmusic.org](http://www.rpmusic.org)

Sistema Toronto

Sistema Toronto uses the global language of music to help children realize their full potential as engaged and responsible citizens. Based on the UNESCO award-winning El Sistema international music program model, Sistema Toronto runs free, high-calibre intensive after-school music education programs that build self-esteem and empathy, and promote students' growth into successful leaders. This year, Sistema will run an in-school program for children in low-income neighbourhoods to create and perform musical compositions accompanied by visuals that express newcomers' experiences in Canada.

[Learn more at www.sistema-toronto.ca](http://www.sistema-toronto.ca)

St. Stephen's Community House

St. Stephen's Community House (SSCH) is a multi-service organization that works with individuals and communities in Downtown West Toronto to identify, prevent and alleviate social and economic problems. SSCH addresses issues including hunger, homelessness, unemployment, isolation, violence, HIV and AIDS, youth alienation, and newcomer integration. Recently, SSCH opened the Youth Arts Studio in Kensington Market to provide low-income youth from the neighbourhood with free, high-quality fine art instruction classes, instrumental music classes and gym-based recreation activities.

[Learn more at www.saintstephensch.org](http://www.saintstephensch.org)

VIBE Arts

VIBE Arts provides accessible arts education programs to young people from marginalized, low-income Toronto neighbourhoods. VIBE Arts and its community and education partners empower children and youth to reach their full potential as artists, leaders, and cultural contributors. This year, VIBE will transform high-profile Toronto locations into galleries of original youth-created art inspired by their love of Canada.

[Learn more at www.vibearts.ca/home](http://www.vibearts.ca/home)

What if I want more information about a project?

This guide contains only brief summaries of organizations and projects. Let us know and we will gladly send you more.

My fund is small. Can I still participate?

Yes. By combining your fund's granting power with others at Toronto Foundation, you can enhance the impact of your decisions and leverage our discretionary dollars.

Do I have to contribute to the programs you identify?

No. You may choose a grant recipient on your own. Feel free to contact us if you would like more information or other ideas.

Do I have to contribute for multiple years to support projects with a longer duration?

No. You may choose whatever kind of commitment you are comfortable with.

I know your focus is Toronto. Can you help me with granting beyond the city?

Yes, we are here to advise and support you with all your charitable giving—in Toronto or anywhere in Canada.



33 Bloor Street East, Suite 1603
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3H1
416-921-2035
www.torontofoundation.ca
info@torontofoundation.ca