

## **Helen Carswell Chair in Community Engaged Research in the Arts**

Report on Brown Bag session

November 20, 2018



On Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018, the Carswell/York/RPSM partnership presented its second 'brown bag' session at the York-TD Community Engagement Centre located at the Yorkgate Mall. We had approximately 15 in attendance including RPSM staff such as the interim Program Manager for the RPSM, Qwyn Charter MacLachlan and several new community stakeholders present for that day's event. From York, we also welcomed, amongst others, Bill Thomas, Chair of York's Department of Music, from the Community Engagement Centre itself, Byron Gray, their new manager and Programme Co-ordinator, Talisha Ramsaroop.

Our Nov. 20 'brown bag session' featured two presentations - one by PhD candidate, Cathy Pavlik-Griffins who presented some of her findings as it related to trauma-informed pedagogy. One of the weighty reminders that Cathy shared with us was that "Emotional safety is necessary for learning to occur". In a professional development workshop offered to RPSM staff this past September, Cathy was able to share helpful pedagogical practices and RPSM Executive Director, Richard Marsella underscored how helpful the information shared had already become for communication and interaction with RPSM students and even their parents. Richard also noted that many aspects of Evelyn Amponsah & Eden Abrahams' research and presentation from our last session intersect with Cathy's focus.

The other presentation was by York University faculty, Joel Ong from the Department of Computational Arts who, along with Daniel Tapper from Visual Arts, are at an exciting phase in their research project. It includes visualization of

data from RPSM with regard to location and navigation of the transportation systems to support possible 'hot spots'--intersects for music making around the community. The exciting technology being explored to bring this creativity to life is also being explored to see how it might enhance the use of technology in making music in RPSM classes. Joel Ong showed some of the data visualization that has been created by his class and has further plans to sit in on some of the RPSM music tech classes in the near future to explore possible applications.

A lively question and answer period ensued following the presentations and advice, queries and clarifications were shared, making for robust conversation. We trust that there will be more opportunities in the future to continue to share this exciting and creative research.

One of the suggestions made by K&M Manager, Michael Johnny, was to explore the resources available through the York Library system for a web page where we can have a repository for easy access to the information arising from the various research projects.

Most of these research projects/curriculum reviews are completed or on their way to being completed, and while we will continue to follow up their exciting results, there is a need to put out another call for research proposals for this Carswell/RPSM/York research partnership. We would like to finalize and begin distributing a call later this month/early January.

We would love YOUR input. There will continue to be a focus on research that will have a direct benefit to the RPSM and other community arts organizations in the Jane-Finch community and you may have topic suggestions that you would like to see 'at the table'. If there are areas of research that you think we should encourage, please drop me a line THIS week.

For those of you who are part of the Advisory Working Group, if you would like to continue to be included in this next phase, I need to hear from you. I know this is a busy time for everyone, but now that classes are almost over, I'm hoping that you will take the time, even if it's just to wish me a 'Merry Christmas' so that I know you are still alive and kicking!

Watch for more exciting news to come to you through our Research Associate, Karen Cyrus, Department Chair, Bill Thomas and/or Interim Dean, Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt on behalf of RPSM and the Executive Director, Richard Marsella, as I begin my 6-month sabbatical.

Thank you to all of our wonderful research and leadership teams!

Best,  
Karen Burke  
Associate Professor, Department of Music  
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design  
York University  
Ste. 355, Accolade East  
4700 Keele Street, Toronto ON Canada M3J 1P3  
tel 416.736.2100 ext. 77131  
fax 416.736.5321  
[burkek@yorku.ca](mailto:burkek@yorku.ca)