

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Helen Carswell Chair in Community Engaged Research in the Arts

York University and Regent Park School of Music (RPSM) are collaborating on a special project aimed at researching and bolstering community music in the Jane & Finch neighbourhood and beyond. Over the next 3 years, RPSM will grow to reach at least 400 children and youth annually in Jane-Finch.

RPSM currently provides subsidized music education to over 200 students (ages 3 to 18) from the Jane & Finch community through 6 locations: Firgrove Public School, Westview Centennial Secondary School, Topcliff Public School, Oakdale Public School, Monsignor Fraser College, and Firgrove Learning and Innovation Community Centre (FLICC). RPSM is providing access to private, group and ensemble music lessons, with students given the choice of a wide range of faculty, instruments and genres from piano lessons and choir to steel pan and new technology.

This long-term partnership with York University, under the Helen Carswell Fellow in Community Engaged Research in the Arts will help us:

- Strengthen programming at RPSM through interdisciplinary, evidence based research
- Increase the number of children reached by RPSM while improving the impact it has on children from marginalized neighbourhoods.
- Conduct rigorous academic research exploring the many benefits of community-music programs and the links between music and learning
- Significantly benefit children from high-risk neighbourhoods and fortify community music programs globally by informing their programming through publications, conferences and other forms of knowledge mobilization

RPSM will work side by side with York University, the Helen Carswell Fellow in Community Engaged Research in the Arts, members of the Advisory Working Group and York's Knowledge Mobilization team to encourage multi-disciplinary research projects that will inform RPSM's curriculum and programming to ensure that we offer new opportunities to children and youth from Jane-Finch.

Karen Burke, the Helen Carswell Fellow in Community Engaged Research in the Arts, together with the Advisory Working Group, is pleased to welcome the submission of research proposals for projects that measure the impact of the Regent Park School of Music's (RPSM) programs in the Jane-Finch community. Projects can explore a variety of perspectives, going beyond education to include psychology, health, business, sociology, environmental studies.

Graduate students and faculty members from all Faculties at York University are invited to submit proposals.

DETAILS:

- The budget maximum for each project proposal is \$20,000
- The timeline for projects can range from 6 months to 18 months, beginning January 2018 and ending no later than June 2019

- Proposals are to be 300-500 words; a budget and project timeline are to be attached but are not included in the 300-500 word limit
- The deadline for the submission of proposals is October 27, 2017
- Applicants will be informed of decisions in mid-November, 2017

Suggested topics for research include, but are not restricted to,

What tools, training and resources do RPSM faculty need to succeed when teaching students from low socio-economic backgrounds living in high risk communities?

How do social issues (e.g. trauma, poverty, racism, etc.) affect students in RPSM's programs, and how can a community music school best support students affected by these challenges?

What impact do RPSM music classes have on middle and high school aged children studying music after school? Which music classes attract/retain more girls than boys (or vice versa), and why?

How do small or large ensemble instructional formats differ in their effectiveness in achieving the goals of RPSM?

How does the breadth of curriculum resonate with the Jane & Finch Community? Are there new areas of offering that should be considered?

What other benefits are there for RPSM children with regards to health and well-being?

An information session will be held on Tuesday October 3, 2:30 – 4 pm in the Martin Family Lounge, 219 Accolade East Building.

Questions can be directed to Karen Burke (burkek@yorku.ca) or Richard Marsella (director@rpmusic.org)

Proposals are to be submitted to Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt (normasue@yorku.ca)