

HELEN CARSWELL CHAIR IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH IN THE ARTS
Report on the presentation at CRAM
April 5, 2019

On April 5, students, parents, and teachers from RPSM, along with executives from the Helen Carswell Chair, met to represent and discuss the impact of the Carswell Family Foundation/YorkU/RPSM research partnership. The occasion was CRAM, an inaugural research festival, which featured innovative and community-engaged research of four universities in Toronto.

The Carswell community of students and researchers participated in a President's Panel titled: "Renegade Research: Partnering with Communities for Change." York University president, Rhonda Lenton, moderated the panel which was held in Vari Hall-A at York University from 8pm to 9pm.



The Helen Carswell inaugural fellow, Karen Burke and RPSM's Executive director, Richard Marsella, spoke on the research partnership between York University and RPSM. This was followed by performances by students from two classes: the RPSM-Jane & Finch rock band and a guitar ensemble.



Parents of RPSM students also participated in the panel; they discussed the impact of the music school. One parent spoke of the opportunities that their children had to explore a variety of instruments; an experience that they were not able to provide. Another parent mentioned the positive musical exposure that her children received, which was equal to and surpassed their Canadian counterparts. Parents were also grateful for the opportunity to highlight positive activities from Jane and Finch.



The Helen Carswell Chair in Community Engaged Research in the Arts was made possible by a generous donation from the Carswell Family Foundation and York professor emeritus Allan Carswell.

Dr. Carswell attended this CRAM presentation; also in attendance were the RPSM-Jane & Finch administrator, Vanessa Chase and executive members of the 2019 chair: Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt (Interim Associate Dean AMPD) and Karen Cyrus (the Helen Carswell Chair Research Associate).

See the link below for more on CRAM:

<https://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2019/03/31/cram-panel-explores-renegade-research-and-partnering-with-communities-for-change/>