

HELEN CARSWELL CHAIR IN COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH IN THE ARTS

2020/2021 Annual Report

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Personnel

Research Chair: Amy Hillis
Research Associate: Karen Cyrus

Overview

The past year has been one of adjustment and growth for the Helen Carswell Chair. It has been a privilege to serve as Chair and become familiar with the capabilities and potential of this important partnership between York University and the Jane and Finch community. Our work this year has been dedicated to building relationships within York University, with RPSM, with other community music organizations in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood, with community music organizations across Canada, and with fellow advocates for inclusive arts education around the world.

Highlights from this year include hosting online webinars on community music topics featuring panelists from the Jane and Finch community, presenting at international conferences such as the International Society for Music Education virtual conference in Zambia, and publishing our own Helen Carswell website to increase awareness of our partnership and research. We were able to generate new interest in the Chair by engaging prospective researchers within our York University community and presenting as part of the AMPD Research Spotlight Series. We were thrilled to receive a record total of submissions to our 2021 Call for Proposals for continued community-engaged research in the arts.

Below is a detailed record of the Helen Carswell Chair's work between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. A big thank you to our Research Associate, Karen Cyrus, our Research Team, our Advisory Committee, RPSM and the community organizations who contributed to these initiatives. I look forward to our continued work in expanding the knowledge and inclusive practice of community arts.

-Amy Hillis, Helen Carswell Chair

Project development: *all four goals as outlined in the July 2020 plan were achieved*

- a. Established revised research priorities with RPSM on July 24, 2020 and January 26, 2021
- b. Held Executive Committee meetings: December 2, 2020 and January 20, 2021
- c. Held orientation meeting with Advisory Committee and all researchers on October 6, 2020
- d. Regular meetings with each researcher: Kathe Gray, Munjeera Jefford, Honor Ford Smith, Joel Ong

Adjudication: *all five goals were achieved and three additional deliverables were completed*

- a. Organized and facilitated adjudication for 2020 revised research proposals on August 24, 2020; granted funding for 3 research projects: Kathe Gray, Munjeera Jefford, Honor Ford Smith

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IN COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH IN THE ARTS

2020/2021 Annual Report

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

- b. Communicated the list of successful researchers to the Office of Research Ethics and to the Office of the Dean, AMPD (September 2020)
- c. Conferenced with successful researchers to work out timeline and methodology with RPSM
- d. Supported Ethics Review process for successful researchers
- e. Created, revised and published the 2021 Call for Proposals on April 1, 2021
- f. Disseminated notice of the CFP to departments and graduate programs across university
- g. Met with prospective applicants and facilitated meetings with applicants and RPSM
- h. Received 15 proposals from faculty and graduate students by July 1st deadline

Knowledge mobilization: *all four goals were achieved*

- a. Published the new Helen Carswell Chair website on May 15th, 2021:
helencarswell.ampd.yorku.ca
- b. Organized previously funded research by topic on YorkSpace page with hyperlinks added to final research reports. YorkSpace continues to feature our news, reports and posters.
- c. Extended Helen Carswell engagement with community music associations by joining:
 - Ontario Music Educator's Association
 - Laurier Community Music Association
 - Institute for Research in Music and Community
 - Pan African Society for Musical Arts Education (PASMAE)
- d. Carswell engagement with community music organizations:
 - Amy Hillis led workshops for students of:
 - Yellowknife Young Composers (June 6, 2020)
 - The Hammer Band (November 25, 2020 & May 16th, 2021)
 - Strong Harbour Strings (March 22, 2021)
 - Sistema Toronto (May 6th, 2021)

Research Dissemination: *all five goals were achieved and one additional deliverable was completed*

- a. The Helen Carswell Research Team presented at four national and international conferences:
 - Muscan Conference: Karen Burke & Karen Cyrus presented "Confronting Anti-Black Racism through Representation in Community Music" with live Q&A on June 3, 2021
 - *Children, Youth & Performance* Conference at York U: Karen Cyrus and Richard Marsella presented "Many Rivers to Cross: Social Justice through Performance and Collaboration" on June 25, 2021

HELEN CARSWELL CHAIR
IN COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH IN THE ARTS

2020/2021 Annual Report

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

- Negotiated the inclusion of RPSM at the *Children, Youth & Performance* Conference. RPSM students performed and were also featured in a Q&A session
- PASMAE-ISME conference titled "Equity and Diversity in Musical Arts Education": Munjeera Jefford & Karen Cyrus presented "Education and Musical Arts in the Community" with live Q&A on July 5, 2021
- PASMAE-ISME conference: Amy Hillis & Karen Cyrus presented "Musical Communities and Community Music" with live Q&A on July 7, 2021
- b. Launched the Helen Carswell Webinars
 - March 10, 2021: "Building pan-African repertoires to disrupt anti-Black racism in music education"
 - April 19, 2021: "Community music organizations: Playing through a pandemic"
- c. Created video material to highlight Helen Carswell research on our website
 - Hired York student videographer to create a branded intro & outro
 - Hired student videographer to create 3 "snapshot teaser" videos for researcher interviews
 - Published full video interviews alongside teaser videos with Salah Wilson, Kathe Gray, and Sam Teclé on Helen Carswell website on May 1st, 2021
- d. Contributed to RPSM Professional Development
 - "'Funds of Knowledge' strategy in music education" by Munjeera Jefford - Feb. 22, 2021
 - "Incorporating the Funds of Knowledge strategy in music lessons" by M. Jefford - March 22
- e. Contributed to peer-reviewed literature
 - Routledge (Research Associate, Karen Cyrus)
- f. Developed plans for increased dissemination
 - Consultation service and PD workshops advertised on our website
 - Introductory letter was distributed to potential community affiliates

Champion for the partnership: *all eleven goals were achieved and three additional deliverables were completed*

- a. Updated YorkSpace with new "Message from the Chair" (August 2020)
- b. Participated in RPSM webinar with update on their remote workshops (August 2020)
- c. Participated in RPSM virtual "Open Mic" concerts (September 2020 - June 2021)
- d. Represented Helen Carswell Chair as member of the Department of Music's "Equity, Diversity, Inclusion" Committee (established in August 2020, ongoing)
- e. Participated in Faculty of Education Summer Institute (FESI) conference planning (April 2021)

HELEN CARSWELL CHAIR
IN COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH IN THE ARTS

2020/2021 Annual Report

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

- f. Participated in FESI planning for webinar series: “Conversations on Anti-Oppression” (2020)
- g. Participated in York University’s “Community Engagement Community of Practice” sessions (August, October 2020)
- h. Conferenced with 10 York faculty and departments to discuss partnering with the chair
- i. Joined the York University Faculty Association Community Projects (YUFA-CP) Committee
- j. Conferenced with community stakeholders:
 - York Region District School Board
 - Jane Finch Research Advisory Group/ Jane Finch Community Research Partnership
 - Canadian Institute for People of African Descent (CIPAD)
- k. Explored new relationships between York and the Jane & Finch neighborhood by meeting with the following organizations:
 - Ngoma Ensemble
 - Jane-Finch Reaching Up Music School
 - Sistema Toronto
 - The Hammer Band
 - Pan Fantasy Steelband
 - Nai Choir
 - African Heritage Educators’ Network
 - Ontario Music Educator’s Association (OMEA)
 - FESI
- l. Collaborated with community-engaged researchers at other universities:
 - Wilfred Laurier University – Dr. Lee Willingham, Director of Centre for Music in the Community; co-submitted a SSHRC Connection grant for collaboration in May 2022
 - Northern Caribbean University – assisted in creating a proposal for a not-for-profit music school
 - University of Manitoba – Dr. Naomi Woo; initial conferencing for future collaborations
- m. Represented the Helen Carswell Chair on OMEA’s Equity and Diversity Committee
- n. Hosted public presentations and Q&As for AMPD students with guest speakers in community music including MacArthur Fellow and Street Symphony Founder, Vijay Gupta

Development and Sustainability: *both goals were achieved, one additional deliverable completed*

- a. Expanded the executive committee to include Uzo Anucha & Karen Burke

HELEN CARSWELL CHAIR
IN COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH IN THE ARTS

2020/2021 Annual Report

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

- b. Discussed possibility of funding projects which do not directly involve RPSM: Jan. 2021
- c. Met with RPSM & Executive Committee to plan for renewal of MOU in August 2021 (Jan. 2021)

Lead and supervise: *all three goals were achieved*

- a. Monitored completion of ethics process for researcher, Munjeera Jefford (December 2020)
- b. Monitored progress of graduate and faculty researchers' projects (August 2021 – June 2020)
- c. Organized 6 guest speakers from RPSM and other community music organizations for York undergraduate students in Community Music (MUSI 3620, January - March, 2021)

Evaluation: *all four goals were achieved*

- a. Prepared and Delivered 2019 final reports to community partners (July 2020)
- b. Contributed to York University's omnibus report for Dr. Carswell (November 2020 - April 2021)
- c. Included evaluation ("impact & implementation") as priority in 2021 Call for Proposals
- d. Annual report sent to Dean Sarah Bay-Cheng and posted on YorkSpace page (August 2021)