



RPNA is a non profit resident led organization that aims to support community building and advocacy in Regent Park. With support from our Community Coordinator we have been able to accomplish the following.

**1. RPNA Community Benefits Coalition**

- The Coalition has won the 'Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) Change Makers Award'.
- RPNA hosted meetings on rezoning and the development of RP phases 4 & 5. We emphasized how residents can be engaged throughout the redevelopment, oriented residents on rezoning impacts and community benefits, and helped shift the decision-making responsibilities of allocating the \$26.8 Million of community benefits to TCH and equity seeking residents.
- Learning Series - In order to establish a successful CBOWG, the coalition along with TCHC and Tridel created three learning series workshops to support community learning and capacity building about community benefits so that everyone can effectively participate in the community engagement process (CBOWG).

**2. CBOWG** - The RPNA Community Benefits Coalition co-created the Community Benefits Oversight Working Group with Toronto Community Housing. Throughout this process we advocated that this committee should empower Regent Park residents to have the ability to make decisions on how the \$26.8 Million of community benefits is spent from the developer. Through its membership this group is socially inclusive and gives a chance for all the Regent Park residents, including youth and TCH tenants to have a say in the future of their community. Now the committee is fully set up and its impact includes increased resident engagement, decision-making, and the overall benefits of employment, training, scholarship and SDP initiatives that will address community needs.

With the support from Executive Director's Network the CBC was able to finalize the CBOWG's Terms of Reference through a mediation process. Special thanks to our long-term partners YSM (Agnie Peters), Regent Park Focus (Adonis Huggins), BGC Toronto Kiwanis (Greg Garry).

**3. RPNA SPWG:** Local Regent Park Service Providers continue to support the

neighbourhood association in its organizational development and other collaborative initiatives. Organizations include Yonge Street Mission, TNG, Dixon Hall, RPCHC, CSI, Focus Media Arts Centre, and Fred Victor.

4. **Social Development Plan:** RPNA plays a significant role as a key stakeholder for the planning and decisions of the Social Developmental Plan, including co-chair roles.
5. **RPNA Summer events:** RPNA partnered with “Healing As One” and took part in “Sunday in the Park” and created awareness of the neighbourhood association.
6. **RPNA Volunteer Drive:** RPNA created a volunteer drive through the “United Ways” fund.

In 2023 we continue to work on the following:

1. SDP - CBOWG
2. SDP - Planning and Stakeholders Table
3. SPWG
4. Community Benefits Coalition

In 2023 the following are new projects and partnerships. We are supporting three projects in the Social Social Development Plan:

### 1. **Learning Series 2.0**

RPNA supports the EED Workgroup through the learning series project. This project has been identified as a need through the [Employment and Economic Development Working Group Community Report](#). This project will fill the gap in the community towards entrepreneurial support for women from business skills building to business coaching.

The overall goal of this project is to build the capacity of Regent Park women entrepreneurs so they can sustain and increase their entrepreneurial opportunities.

This project will achieve the following:

- 10-20 women entrepreneurs will have knowledge and confidence of how to start, develop and grow their entrepreneurial business
- This leads to Increased
  - # of sustainable women entrepreneurial business in Regent Park
  - sense of inclusion in economic development in Regent Park
  - Increase diverse business active in Regent Park
- 5 resident will learn to project manage an employment and economic development initiative
- Residents report Increased resident decision making and leadership

**Grant Amount \$\$ 65,675.93 - City of Toronto - Social Development Plan Funds**

## **2. Cafe Pop Up**

**Project Description :** Animate the Cafe Space in the Artscape Lounge as a platform for local FOOD entrepreneurs to test and build their businesses, and provide hot meals in a community space

### **Project Goal**

- Support local entrepreneurs to test and build their business Animate the Artscape Lounge
- Provide easily accessible cultural food in the neighborhood
- Build a supportive step in the path way for local entrepreneurs

**Grant Amount \$50,000 - City of Toronto - Mainstreet Innovation Fund**

## **3. Tech Library**

In Partnership with YSM, this project aims to address the limited access to the Internet among at-risk youth and school children living in the social housing in Regent Park. Having access to the internet at home helps to reduce barriers by unlocking the ability for youth and families to attend school virtually, get help with school, socialize, find opportunities for safe engaging activities, participate in community online projects, receive online access to social workers, doctors and other services.

This is especially important in a post pandemic world, when remote access has become a ubiquitous expectation The Tech Lending Library in Regent Park will lend mobile Internet devices, notebooks/ tablets, and offer orientation training related to basic cyber security and device use.

The library will be staffed by local residents as the Peer Support workers in the Lending Library. These peer support workers will train others, remind about returns, check devices before and after lending, answer simple questions about the use of devices, organize peer-led discussions about cyber-security.

Grant Amount: **81,463.11** - Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA)

## **4. Community Living**

In partnership with Artscape and BGC Toronto Kiwanis, RPNA is reactivating the Community Living room which is a community asset. It was designed as an accessible community space, and neighbourhood-level lab, meant to open up space for the community and to incubate locally-owned businesses and community social enterprises at the ground level, and unlock community assets to be better utilized, accessed, and governed by the local residents.

A community access coordinator would meet 4 milestones

- 1) continue to co ordinate fair and equal community to the Community Living Room, and leverage resources to support community initiatives
- 2) liaise with the community to bring more people together in the space
- 3) Facilitate an after hours youth space
- 4) Build resident capacity to run and administer the Community Living Room

Grant Amount: \$58,000.00 - City of Toronto Social Development Plan Funding

DocuSigned by:  
  
D1145E2028AED4EF  
**MARLENE DE GENOVA** - Director

DocuSigned by:  
  
2ED53C1599364A7  
**ISMAIL AFRAH** - Director