CREATIVE SPACES
OUTSIDE THE CORE

Broader Context for Cultural Space Development
“What we say in Tamil is that the fruit comes from the leaves. If we look at the leaves, you will see the fruit under that. People are here, but they are not always visible.”
Local Assets

- Cultural diversity
- Local leadership
- Youth
- Formal and informal arts programs
- Neighbourhood commitment
Local Involvement

“We get labeled as ‘low income’ and that’s it. You never hear – ‘this is a community that pulls together’ – They don’t talk to people who live here and breathe the air.”
Role of arts in neighbourhoods
Public Events and Festivals

“Art is an essential core in the beat of our community.”
“Art defines our soul and mind.”
Arts in Daily Life

“Art helps people tap into the rest of who they are.”
Activist Art

“Arts are a microphone!”
Art Classes

“The arts are an opportunity to be expressive.”
Culturally-Grounded Arts Practices

“It’s the arts that define the gifts I give my children.”
Individual Arts Practices

“The arts are a visual or sonic expression of emotion.”
Community-Arts Engagement
Professional Productions
Cultural Spaces

- Storefronts
- Houses
- Faith-based buildings
- Social service agencies
- Libraries
- Community Centres
- TCH buildings
- Public space
- Abandoned space
Impact of arts on Community Life

- Sharing Experiences: 42
- Building Connections: 39
- Networking Opportunities: 38
- Bridging Difference: 36
- Increased Understanding: 31
- Local Participation: 29
- Neighbourhood Beautification: 16
- Neighbourhood Pride: 15
- Legacy Building: 12
Impact on lives of individuals
Barriers to Arts Access

- Personal (time, health, etc.): 46
- Not Enough Information: 39
- Lack of Arts Spaces: 36
- Cultural/Language: 35
- Program Restrictions: 30
- Lack of Resources: 28
- Systemic (poverty, racism, sexism): 20
- Cost to Participant: 14
- Poor Transportation: 10
- Outsider to art world: 10
Neighbourhood Visions

- Developing more spaces for arts activity
- Mentoring and leadership development
- Supporting sustainable and accessible arts programs
- Building a local arts identity
“A multipurpose art centre could provide arts education programming for everybody, showcase community projects, host contemporary art exhibitions that reflect the neighbourhood... and a roof top garden so we could make our own preserves and sell them.”
Sustainability

TAF Creative City Block by Block

Neighbourhood Arts Network
Research
New Local Arts Service Organizations
Sustainability
TAC Program Funding Priorities

Address changing demographics

Financial disparity between downtown and inner suburbs

Growth of community-engaged arts

Recognition of the connection between arts and community building
TAC Program Funding Priorities

**Growth**

50% of new funds to be allocated through existing grant programs to organizations and individual artists in Community Arts, Dance, Literary, Music, Theatre, Visual/Media Arts.

**Connection**

30% of new funds devoted to programs involving youth and diverse communities across Toronto neighbourhoods, especially in inner suburbs.

**Innovation**

20% of new funds reserved for programs and partnerships that create the capacity to respond to special opportunities and to launch new ideas, projects and initiatives.
2013-14 initiatives

- Supporting TAC-funded organizations working outside the downtown
- ArtReach micro grants for youth
- Programming partnership with Toronto Public Library
- Platform A Initiative to seed community arts programs and mentor leaders
- ArtsVest – supporting investment in the arts through matching grants