

A photograph of a concrete structure being painted with vibrant colors. The structure is partially covered in black, grey, light blue, and purple paint. A hand is visible in the foreground, holding a paintbrush and applying purple paint to a vertical stripe. A bucket of purple paint and a brush are also visible. In the background, a person in a yellow shirt is working on another part of the structure. The scene is outdoors on a paved area with streetlights and trees in the distance.

PROJECT: HUMANITY

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Mural art created by Stephanie Bellefleur and her youth mentee as part of the COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program and StART Street Art Toronto.
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A BIG YEAR

The 2019-2020 fiscal year was noteworthy for Project: Humanity on many fronts. A global pandemic pushed us — alongside our entire sector — to adapt our ways of working while still serving our constituents. Perhaps more subtle was that, on our new website, the company carefully and proudly articulated its two distinct arms of operation: **PH: YOUTH** and **PH: THEATRE**. In service of these two key and interrelated dimensions to the company, we have distilled and communicated our core values as such:

We believe theatre is a powerful way to bring together disconnected groups.

With great care and imagination, our **theatre** helps people reach across differences. Our drama programs amplify **youth** voices and help youth break down the social barriers they face.

We believe theatre can help people listen better and become more compassionate.

We approach **youth** as the experts of their own experiences. We celebrate their critical capacities and invite them into more trusting relationships with the so-called adult world. Our **theatre** finds root in careful listening between artists and the communities they are representing. It takes flight in helping audiences shed their misconceptions.

We believe theatre can inspire active citizenship and lead to real change.

Our **theatre** dares to strengthen our democracy. By stimulating care and awareness between strangers, we motivate people to improve their relationships with one another. We use drama to help **youth** better understand themselves and the systems of which they are a part. That embodied learning equips them to be more effective activists in and for their communities.

The company has benefitted greatly from this language in its relating with prospective donors and board members, artists in the community, prospective volunteers and partner organizations. This language provides guidelines and imperatives for all of our operations.

PH: THEATRE 19/20



On the heels of a very big production year in 2018-19, with the world premiere of *Towards Youth: a play on radical hope* and Khari Wendell McClelland's workshop tour of *We Now Recognize*, the 2019-2020 fiscal year saw more focus on the development of new works and outputs adjacent to our signature Verbatim Theatre practices.

- A multi-camera edit of *Towards Youth: a play on radical hope* was directed by Andrew Kushnir. This high-quality archival has become, above all, a pedagogical tool for schools (post-secondary, to date) that want to engage with the production and project.
- A 22-minute documentary *Finding Radical Hope* was written and co-directed by Andrew (with Chris Altorf at ISTOICA). The film highlighted the big themes of Dr. Kathleen Gallagher's international Radical Hope project through an amalgamation of ethnographic research footage of drama classrooms, new interviews conducted by Andrew, and some very strong visuals (filmed by ISTOICA) capturing the rehearsal process and run of *Towards Youth*.
- Project: Humanity partnered with Crow's Theatre, The Musical Stage Company and the Segal Centre for several short development workshops of *CHEW* (a new verbatim musical examining competitive eating, co-created by Sarah Segal-Lazar, Anika Johnson and Andrew Kushnir). Ultimately, this resulted in a co-commissioning of a first draft of the piece by Crow's Theatre and Project: Humanity (Dec 1, 2020 deadline).

"This is about a way of walking through life, a way of rehearsing to be in life, which is far bigger than this room."
— Dr. Kathleen Gallagher in *Finding Radical Hope*

PH: THEATRE (other projects)

The Division — Oct/Nov 2019

Through funding provided by his \$21,000 Shevchenko Foundation REACH award and residency at Tarragon Theatre and PH, Andrew undertook the research for his latest verbatim work *The Division*. Over the course of 29 days he travelled to over 14 cities and towns in Europe (13 flights, 2 car rentals, 12 trains, 184.4km by foot according to his iPhone) retracing his grandfather's journey from Western Ukraine to Canada, interviewing people about time, memory and familial mythologies.

Partnering with Nightwood — Jan 2020

Project: Humanity struck up a new 'in association' partnership with Nightwood Theatre for a then-slated Spring 2021 production. PH was specifically coming on board as the community engagement partner for this show (an exciting new work that centres on a young person entering a shelter for the first time and grappling with the systems that have failed her). Due to COVID-19, both companies decided to postpone further planning on this co-production, with new dates TBD.

CHEW — May/June 2020

Project: Humanity partnered with Crow's Theatre to create a 25-minute iteration of *CHEW* (co-commissioned by the companies) for Crow's virtual *Dinner and a Show* series. Audience members were able to enjoy boxed dinners from Gare de L'Est Brasserie while partaking of some songs and scenes from this verbatim musical-in-development. It proved a surprisingly constructive way of advancing the material and dramaturgy of the piece.

Further Highlights:

Andrew penned an article for the Loran Scholarship Foundation's [#RisksForGood Campaign](#); Andrew also contributed a chapter for Dr. Kathleen Gallagher's latest book ***Global Youth Citizenry And Radical Hope*** entitled "A New Hearing: Representation and Relationship in the Making of *Towards Youth: a play on radical hope*" (Springer Books); Project: Humanity secured a **hybrid presentation** of *Towards Youth* (part lecture, part performance, part viewing of the documentary) as part of the Fall 2020 Forum at the **Stratford Festival of Canada** (which was unfortunately postponed due to COVID-19); in January 2020, Andrew spoke about the company's Verbatim Theatre practices at the **University of Regina** as part of the Playwright Guild of Canada's reading series – he also taught a Verbatim workshop with U of R students; starting in April 2020, Andrew began attending weekly **Artistic Director meetings** with all the theatre companies in the city. These sessions provided critical insight into how the sector's leaders are managing restrictions, cancelled or postponed project, supporting artists associated with their companies, etc.

OUR 2019-20 ARTIST COLLABORATORS

We are grateful to have worked with the following artists this season:

Chris Abraham, Chris Altorf, Damien Atkins, Hugh Brewster, Justin Broadbent, Katie Clarke, Luke Correia-Damude, Brett Dahl, Jessica Greenberg, Bryan Hindle, Anika Johnson, Peter Katz, Mike T. Kerr, Sarah Segal-Lazar, Linda McRae, Eric Morin, Alfred Mulroy, Brigitte Robinson, Malia Rogers, Zorana Sadiq, Tyrone Savage, Kolton Stewart, Khari Wendell McClelland, & Loretta Yu.

"We are all storytellers and it is exciting to support creative work, from scratch, with my mentee. CAPP has done the unthinkable: I actually look forward to our weekly Zoom meeting."

– Natasha Adiyana-Morris, playwright and CAPP artist-mentor



PH: YOUTH 19/20

Over the past year, our PH: YOUTH program evolved significantly. With the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, this 'arm' of the company undertook a transformation that is poised to last through and beyond this time of upheaval.

IMPACT OVERVIEW FOR THE DRAMA-DROP IN PROGRAM AT YWS AND SKETCH



39 PRO-BONO WORKSHOPS

31 AT YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER + 8 AT SKETCH



315 YOUTH ATTENDEES

250 ENGAGING WITH US AT YWS + 65 ENGAGING WITH US AT SKETCH



58.5 HOURS OF DRAMA PROGRAMMING

46.5 HOURS AT YWS + 12 HOURS AT SKETCH

Youth Without Shelter — Summer-Fall-Winter 2019

We kept up our Drama Drop-In at Youth Without Shelter in Rexdale on Tuesday evenings. These workshops saw an average of 10 youth in attendance per session. Dan Chapman-Smith carried out these sessions through our particular pedagogy, which continues to marry questions of social justice with opportunities to activate youth voices and break down social barriers. The 'power of play' continues to be an effective way of diffusing tensions and nurturing camaraderie in the shelter.

SKETCH — Jan 2020

PH launched the Drama Drop-In at SKETCH – building upon our existing shared platform relationship (detailed further in this document). These sessions saw between 5-10 youth participate on Wednesday nights of their "Winter" semester and served as an 8 week pilot partnership. SKETCH has tested drama in their array of programs, however the PH Drama Drop-In proved particularly successful and sustainable. PH was invited to continue our offering through the 2020 season.

**"SETTING GOALS
FOR MYSELF
HELPS TAKE MY MIND
OFF THE CHAOS."**

- youth participant, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**"WE DISCOVERED
OUR SHARED
LOVE FOR
BEYONCÉ!"**

- artist-mentor, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**"I WATCHED HER
CONFIDENCE
INCREASE DURING
THIS SESSION
ALONE."**

- artist-mentor, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**"I FEEL LIKE
I'M BACK
IN MY NATURAL
ELEMENT"**

- youth participant, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**COVID-19 ARTIST
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

Connecting professional artists to youth in shelters for 1:1 online mentorship



PROJECTHUMANITY.CA



**United Way
Greater Toronto**

Canada

**"WE ARE GOING TO
WORK TOGETHER
AND HOPEFULLY
INSPIRE EACH OTHER
TO KEEP MAKING ART."**

- artist-mentor, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**"WRITING POETRY
IS A WAY I
GET OUT MY
ANGER."**

- youth participant, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**"HE'S PROGRESSING
BY LEAPS
AND BOUNDS"**

- artist-mentor, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**"I'M REALIZING ANEW
HOW MUCH
THESE WEEKLY
SESSIONS MEAN
TO ME."**

- artist-mentor, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



Canada

**"I'M ALREADY
HAVING
FUN!"**

- youth participant, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**"I NEVER EXPECTED THAT
THESE PRIVATE SESSIONS
WOULD TURN INTO
MOMENTS OF BRAVERY
WITH PEERS."**

- artist-mentor, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



**"THIS IS
MY
DREAM."**

- youth participant, COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program



Canada

PH: YOUTH (con't)

CAPP — April 2020

When our regular PH: YOUTH programming was halted by the COVID-19 outbreak, PH sought a way to honour our commitment to sustained engagement with our youth constituents, even if that meant moving away from our previous forms of working. The ensuing pilot program, which we ran May-June 2020, was called **CAPP – the COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program**. CAPP funded 1:1 weekly mentorship meetings online wherein 6 remunerated professional artists worked with 6 youth at YWS in an artistic discipline of the youth's choosing. Appreciating the challenges with effective drama work online, we tested the possibilities of visual art and music, to great success. The impacts of this program – with regards to managing the “chaos” of the pandemic or finding “pathways to joy” in hard times – have been appreciable and significant, as reported on by youth participants, artist mentors, and shelter staff. This pilot has resulted in the more formalized, robust and funded model undertaken in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. By June 2020, it was clear that CAPP would be a cornerstone of the company's operations through this period of destabilization.



Further Highlights:

Dan conducted Verbatim Theatre workshops with **Earl Haig** students in November 2019; Andrew delivered a 90-minute keynote address at the **York District School Board's QUEST conference** in November 2019. Speaking to a room of educators, he offered learnings from the *Towards Youth* process, along with showing clips of the show and reading excerpts with three actors from the original cast.

BUILDING SUPPORT

In 2019-2020, Project: Humanity saw an upswing in individual donors.

Our **2019 Matching Campaign** raised over \$10,000 in private donations. The mainstay of this campaign was long-time PH supporter Franca Gucciardi, who matched gifts and rallied support for Project: Humanity by encouraging others to join our community of donors.

In May of 2020, Franca Gucciardi again stepped up to support Project: Humanity in a time of need. Her major gift at the outset of our **COVID-19 Artist Partnership Program** was key to the successful development of CAPP, and generated valuable momentum ahead of our later fundraising efforts for the program.



We are entering the third year of a mutually-successful partnership with **SKETCH Working Arts** as a member of their Shared Mentorship Platform. SKETCH's platform leverages their infrastructure to support non-profit organizations who share their mandate of addressing systemic barriers and increasing access to the arts for marginalized communities. Our relationship with SKETCH is built on the vision of a well-resourced, knowledgeable, and interconnected community of practice which benefits both arts organizations and the communities who interact with them. This relationship enables us to apply for funding using SKETCH's charitable number, which has created opportunities for PH to pursue foundational giving in tandem with working toward our own charitable status.



GROWTH

Over the course of the 2019-20 fiscal year — and particularly towards spring of 2020 — the company increased its operational capacity with new team members.

December 2019

In December 2019, **Malia Rogers** began contract work with the company. A graduate of Acadia University (BAH Sociology and Theatre Studies) and York University (MA Theatre and Performance Studies), Malia has held administrative roles in project management, communications, production, and development in the not-for-profit arts sector. She now spearheads both Project: Humanity's fundraising program and communications. As a performer, her fantastic independent folk music can be found at www.linktr.ee/maliarogers.

April 2020

In mid-April 2020, Project: Humanity started working with **Quilin** — an organizational performance consultancy “operating at the intersection of data, design and human insights, with a specialty in evaluating impact.” Their principal, **Lindsay Valve**, took PH on as a pro bono client, offering us extensive support around measuring the effectiveness of our approaches and developing impact narratives for our work. Lindsay has been assisting PH in the development of the company's Strategic Plan for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

May - August 2020

In the spring and summer of 2020, **Laura McCallum** served as administrator at PH. Along with assisting with managing bookkeeping, contracts, and other administrative duties, she implemented the reworking of the PH website. In June 2020, she was a key manager of the CAPP pilot (personnel management and data collection). In September 2020, she moved on to an interim GM role at Outside the March.

LOOKING AHEAD



In the coming season, PH looks to create sustainable revenue sources for CAPP, specifically, and its operations, more generally. We hope to expand our board and our donor base, and activate the youth advisory committee we've started to assemble.

The 2020-21 fiscal year will have its challenges – particularly around our PH: THEATRE practices and how they have been impacted by gathering restrictions. The company will continue to serve its commissioned works, and develop relationships with new artist and arts sector partners. PH, as of the summer of 2020, has undertaken a more robust and intentional approach to developing Anti-Oppressive frameworks and practices at the company. This will be an ongoing point of focus for us as we examine our ways of working, the storytellers that we're resourcing, our hiring practices and staff makeup, and our youth engagement and community work. We have every intention to secure our charitable status in this coming year and in June-July made significant progress on a draft of that application.



WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR 2019-20 COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

We would like to thank our donors & partners for helping us raise awareness of important social issues through the arts.

Individual Donors (July 1 2019 - June 30 2020)

The Mapili-Abalos Family
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