

STRONG COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

269 Gerrard St. East . Toronto, ON M5A 2G3 Phone: (416) 968-6989 / Fax: (416) 968-0597

# **Civic Engagement Initiative**

The Civic Engagement Initiative is for residents of Regent Park, Moss Park and St. James Park with a desire to be involved in promoting community development and strengthening civic engagement and volunteerism. Program participants will gain the knowledge and community engagement skills to motivate others to become more active citizens in community development.

## Program Objectives

- To promote active citizenship in the community by educating participants on community issues and activities: Our goal is to encourage community engagement through adult education processes. These processes, such as informal discussions groups and digital storytelling, will be interactive and innovative in order to successfully engage the trainees.
- Encourage participants to share their community-related experiences and challenges among the group: Through information sharing and networking, participants will develop a higher level of social awareness as well as a stronger social support system. Their sharing of knowledge will also be spread through the rest of the neighbourhood, which will further promote a collective form of social consciousness.
- Train participants to solve problems with a critical mind and a personal cause for change: We want to train our participants in critical thinking, giving them the ability to solve problems, but also allow them to develop their own perspectives on each individual problem; allow them to develop their own personal cause for change.
- Facilitate leadership development and skills-based training: Leadership development is one of the most fundamental goals in this initiative. Our goal is to train effective leaders residing in the affected communities by educating and encouraging them in goal setting, self-advocacy, self-confidence, group dynamics, networking and more.

### Course Components

- Critical thinking,
- Digital storytelling
- Planning community-based activities (leadership learning circles, workshops and more)

"Creating a strong culture of community engagement through capacity-building, progressive learning and innovative training."











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- Information and Referral (certificate)
- Access Equity and Human Rights
- Board Governance
- Volunteerism
- And more

## Who should apply?

Residents of Regent Park, Moss Park and St. James Park with an interest in participating in community development and strengthening civic engagement and volunteerism are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants:

- Must have good oral and written communication skills in English
- Must have intermediate to advanced computer skills
- Fluency in a second language is an asset
- Knowledge of how to use various multi-media tools is an asset
- Must be open to exploring new ideas
- Must be committed and prepared to
  - o Attend 15 hours of training a week (Tuesday-Thursday) for at least 6 months
  - o Participate in community activities such as workshops and forums
  - Committed to completing all requirements of the program (in-class attendance and participation, community fieldwork etc.)

## <u>How to apply</u>

Contact Alison Chan at alison@tccld.org or (416) 968 6989 ext.102.

The Civic Engagement Initiative would not be possible without the generous contributions from the Catherine Donnelly Foundation and City of Toronto (AEHR).

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