

Annual Report 2019



Serving our community for 40 years

58 Cecil Street, Toronto, ON M5T 1N6 | 416.392.1090

Something for Everyone!

A Message from the Chair and Executive Director

As we write this message, we are in the midst of an unprecedented global event. One that we could not have predicted at the close of 2019. The coronavirus, or COVID-19, caught the world off guard and changed our lives completely. We wear masks, we wash and sanitize our hands frequently, we avoid crowds and maintain physical distance from each other. Family and social gatherings are limited, and we no longer give hugs.

At Cecil, for more than 40 years, we have been about serving people. We work with our community to find solutions to social problems and we reach out to those most in need and offer a helping hand. In 2019 we did just that. We provided after school and day camp programs to school-aged children, support and safe play spaces to toddlers, preschoolers and their parents and caregivers in our EarlyON Family Resource Centre, and a cool place for youth to hang out in our Youth Lounge. Seniors enjoyed our congregant dining program, as well as dancing and singing, tai chi and swordplay. For the more physical, there was table-tennis, yoga and Pilates, as well as ballroom and line dancing.

Our first annual Open House and barbecue in September was also a huge success with over 200 people coming through our doors to learn more about what Cecil Community Centre had to offer. We launched our new (appropriately named) tag line, *"something for Everyone"*, which you will see on future Cecil materials. We were also fortunate to receive a donation of men's designer clothing from Leone Napoli on St. Clair Avenue West. We held two days of "CecilStyles" sales in September and October. Money raised went to the Cecil Youth Lounge. Also in September, staff and board members participated in the annual Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon to raise funds for the Centre. Thank you to Dorene Weston, Katherine Gatt, Manjola Konomi and Danny Anckle for being part of Team Cecil!

We are proud to be working with a wide range of dedicated caring individuals and partner organizations. From government through to the academic and social services community, there's a genuine groundswell and focus on making our community great.

We also have an amazing team of dedicated staff (CecilPeople), led by our Executive Director, Danny Anckle. Thank you to every one of you who give so much to make Cecil Community Centre the best it could ever be.

Our success is the community's success, and with the ongoing support of our donors, partners, staff, Board and volunteers, Cecil Community Centre is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead in 2020 and beyond.

David Kim

Chair, Board of Management (Acting)

Danny Anckle

Executive Director



Farewell to our outgoing Board Chair

For more than 10 years, **Cynthia Sherwood** has been a volunteer member of the Board of Management at Cecil Community Centre. Over the Years, Cynthia has held various roles on the Board, most recently as Board Chair since June 2018. Sadly, Cynthia has now completed her final term and it is with a heavy heart that we say farewell to a loyal supporter, advocate and friend.

The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others."

~ DeAnn Hollis

Thank you Cynthia for your many years of dedication to Cecil Community Centre. We wish for you good health and happiness for the future.

Who We Are

Cecil Community Centre is a not-for-profit, multi-service neighbourhood centre that offers a broad range of recreational, educational, social, cultural and capacity-building programs to local area residents. For more than 40 years, the Centre has played a vital role in the lives of community members of all ages. Our centre provides programs and services for children, youth, adults and seniors. Programs include EarlyON Child and Family Centre, Community Drop-in, Children's After School Program, Summer Camp and PA Day Camps, Yoga, Pilates, Senior's Nutritional Program, Youth Programs, and Weekend Children's Program.

The Centre partners with a variety of community organizations to provide services to the community, (e.g. seniors' health and fitness classes, English language instruction for newcomers, and tax clinics for people with low-income). The Centre is an accessible, multi-functional facility that provides program and activity spaces to the community at large.

Cecil Community Centre is an agency of the City of Toronto and one of the Association of Community Centres. The Association of Community Centres (AOCCs) is comprised of 10 volunteer board-run multi-purpose facilities providing a broad range of community, recreation and social service programs to residents in the local community.

Our Mission

To foster a sense of community and enhance the quality of life through the development, encouragement and support of programs and activities responsive to local needs.

This mission fulfils past City of Toronto Council priorities concerning improved public services, strengthening at-risk neighbourhoods, and increasing public involvement in civic affairs.

Our Core Values

Equity, Diversity and Human Rights – We are committed to ensuring that the programs, services and policies of Cecil Community Centre are responsive to the needs of our diverse community.

Integrity – We are committed to operating this Centre with integrity and transparency in all our partnerships, relationships and operations.

Accountability – We are committed to full accountability to the community and our partners in our financial, operational, and governing responsibilities for this Centre.

Sustainability – We are committed to ensuring fiscal and social sustainability of this Centre.

Creativity – We are committed to the encouragement of creative expressions of community, culture, arts, leisure, and sporting programs within this Centre.

Service – we are committed to serving the community in all the operations, programs and events that take place within this Centre.



We created a team for the 2019 Scotiabank Charity Challenge at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

On October 20th, **Dorene Weston, Katherine Gatt, Manjola Konomi** and **Danny Anckle (Team Cecil)**, participated in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon while raising funds for our Children and Youth Programs through the Scotiabank Charity Challenge.

In 2019, we made our race more meaningful by raising funds to build a new Youth Lounge at the Community Centre. Thank you to everyone who supported our runners and walkers.

Cecil Community Centre Family Fun Fair



On **Saturday, October 26th** from 1:00pm to 4:00pm The Cecil 2019 Family Fun Fair rolled into town! There was fun for the whole family at 58 Cecil Street.

Guests enjoyed snacks, baking, face painting, pumpkin carving, demonstrations and much more! Lots of prizes and giveaways were won and food and beverages were provided.

Thanks for visiting YOUR community centre at our

OPEN HOUSE



On Saturday, September 14th, we hosted our first annual Cecil Open House, themed, *“Something for Everyone!”* It was an exciting and fun-packed event with over 200 people coming in to check out Cecil programs and activities. There were lots of giveaways, a barbecue, and (literally) something for everyone throughout the entire building as we celebrated 41 years of service in the community.



Thank you to our
OPEN HOUSE
Donors and Sponsors



Program Objectives

The Objectives of the programming at Cecil Community Centre are to build community and individual capacity, support social change and democratic growth, and to increase the quality of life and feelings of safety and wellbeing of individuals and families. Activities to support these objectives include programming for children, youth, adults, seniors and families, and providing opportunities for civic and community engagement

Children & Youth

To support the social, emotional and academic development of the children and youth (including low-income, racialized and LGBTQ+) in the diverse neighbourhoods we serve.

Community

To provide a safe space for people (including racialized, homeless, low-income, and LGBTQ+) from the diverse neighbourhoods we serve to gather, make social connections, and participate in civic engagement and activities that build individual skills and foster a sense of community.

Seniors

To maintain and enhance the well-being of seniors (including racialized, low-income, homeless, and LGBTQ+) in the neighbourhoods we serve.

Health & Fitness

To improve mental and physical health of people (including racialized, homeless, low-income, and LGBTQ+) in the diverse neighbourhoods we serve through mindfulness and recreational activities.

Program Highlights

What a wonderful year of programming we had at the Centre! We had lots of new community members and the pre-existing programs continued and developed further to meet the ever-changing needs of our community members.

Our EarlyON Family Resource Centre engaged in lots of outdoor activities and were able to upgrade and purchase new supplies to enhance the learning opportunities for children and families.

Our CecilKids! Programs continued to grow and we offered PA Day Camps for a second year in a row, as well as Winter Break programming.

Our outreach and partnerships were focused on our neighbourhood schools and supporting special events at the schools and in the community. In the summer months we were able to run our CecilKids! Summer Series and it continued to be a success. Campers and community members alike were able to enjoy all of the wonderful talent.

In September, shifted our programming staff designated for the Weekend Program to partner with Kensington Community School to provide a Before School Program which ran from 7:30am to 8:30am and provided children an opportunity to have physical engagement and a healthy snack to start the day.

The youth drop-in program continued to run, and we partnered with George Brown College and Humber College to have Child and Youth Care placement students to provide more support to our youth as well as allowing the Centre to run our drop-in program 5 days a week.

Cecil's Tax Clinic continued to run and provided low-income individuals and families with free assistance to file their 2018 tax returns and answer any questions or concerns they had.

We've had an amazing programming year in 2019 and we look forward to supporting the community as we continue to grow in 2020.



Slay Queen Drag Masterclass 2019

The City of Toronto, in partnership with Cecil Community Centre, ran its very first Masterclass for drag queens and celebrated the class of 2019's Graduation with a Grand Showcase on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

The Masterclass provided access, skill development, and mentorship to the LGBTQ+ youth who are pursuing a career in drag. It is an artist development program inclusive for drag kings and queens of all levels, taught by Toronto's very own drag legend, Sofonda.



Each week, Sofonda taught drag artists the fundamentals of being a successful drag queen with the help of other artistic professionals like Luna DuBois, Kyle Gervacy, Hollywood Jade, and

Priyanka. They worked with the participants to step outside of their own comfort zones and explore new possibilities to elevate their drag to new heights.

The Showcase offered the opportunity to see the magic they created as they performed for the



audience and a panel of judges who provided live feedback. The best performers of the night received special prizes. Guests were able to support the youth doing what they love, be entertained, make connections, and enjoy a Caribbean meal on the house.

CecilStyles Pop-Up Shop

A big thank you to **David Petrash** and **Aaron Gonsenhauser** of Leone Napoli who supplied the clothes and accessories for our first ever *Designer Menswear Pop-up Shop*. The sale was a terrific success and raised money to support the Cecil Youth Lounge. Missed the last sale? Not to worry, stay tuned for the Spring Pop-up Shop. Details to follow.

Clothing generously donated by

LEONE

NAPOLI

686 St Clair Avenue West, Toronto



In the Community

Toronto Chinatown Festival



For the third year in a row, we participated in the **Toronto Chinatown Festival**, organized by the Chinatown BIA. The Toronto Chinatown Festival started in 2000 and it has been growing ever since to ensure the celebration surpasses the previous success.

This year, the festival was on Saturday, August 17 and Sunday, August 18, and, as in previous years, Cecil Community Centre had a booth and table at the event. Our booth on Spadina Avenue saw lots of new and familiar faces, and we had some great prize giveaways! We had various activities to engage the public and used the opportunity to promote the Centre and encourage

people to come out and try our programs and activities. The Centre was also one of the stops in the scavenger hunt.

Luna New Year at Cecil

At Cecil we always support community events that promote culture and diversity so it was our pleasure to host our second annual Lunar New Year Community Celebration. This event was hosted on Saturday, January 18th, 2019. We invited community members of all ages to participate in the food, fun and festivities!



Our neighbours across the street at New Ho King Restaurant catered the event and everyone came hungry and left happy. There were fun family activities for the children, as well as a bouncy castle and Lunar New Year themed goodies and entertainment. We want to thank everyone who attended and participated.

School Fun Days

In addition to hosting our own booths, and events we want to thank Ryerson Community School and Orde Street Community School for inviting us to participate in their school Fun Days! From making snow cones, to giving manicures we love an opportunity to be out in the community and to assist where we can.

Cecil Community Centre is now part of the City of Toronto Cardiac Safe City Program



There are approximately 2,000 sudden cardiac arrests every year in the city of Toronto. Many of them happen in public places. As a publicly accessible building we wanted to make sure that we know what to do if we encounter someone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest, would you know what to do?

In the fall of 2019, Toronto Paramedic Services' Safe City Program installed an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at 58 Cecil Street. The AED is located in the reception area. All staff have received training on how to use the AED, and First Aid and CPR training certification for 3 years. We have also received training in administering Naloxone (nasal and intramuscular).

Knowing what to do ahead of a medical emergency allows us to contribute to saving a life.

REVENUE

City of Toronto: Core Grant	701,933	Core administration funding from the City of Toronto
City of Toronto Program Grants	5,415	Community Services Program Grant
Provincial Grants	24,397	Early Years Centre (EarlyON Family Resource Centre)
Federal Government Grants	21,266	Canada Summer Jobs grant and Seniors grant
Interest	2,120	Reserve funds are invested in GICs and low-risk bonds
Rentals	24,947	
Program Fees	6,966	
Charitable Donations	7,323	
Fundraising	5,342	
Other Income	1,414	
Total	804,392	

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Wages	576,475
Benefits	135,056
Materials and Supplies	44,582
Purchase of Services	83,503
Amortization of Capital; Assets	3,269
Total	842,885
Deficit	(38,493)

Board of Management**Executive**

Stanley Ho	Chair (Acting)
Andrew Reddin	Vice-Chair
Lauren Ng	Treasurer
Ralph Daley	Secretary

Councillor Mike Layton (Ward 11)

Members-at-Large

Feroza Khan
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