

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Something for Everyone!

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A message from **Serena Purdy**,
Chair of the Board of
Management, and **Danny Anckle**,
Executive Director.

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In an unprecedented year of
change, see how **Cecil Centre**
adapted to keep the doors open
and provide essential services for
our most vulnerable neighbours.

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Summary of the **2020 Audited**
Financial Statements.



THE CECIL 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.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



As we come to the end of what has been an unprecedented year, I find myself reflecting upon what I have learned about this organization in the brief time I have been on the board as the Chair. What I have come to recognize is that this community possesses greater strength and resilience than I could have possibly imagined. Despite the unparalleled adversity introduced by the COVID-19 crisis, Cecil Community Centre has continued

to provide services and supports. When I look at the growth of Cecil Centre over the past year, I am extremely proud of what we have been able to achieve. I am even more excited about our outlook for an equally promising future.

As we all know, the events of 2020 have forced Cecil Centre to operate primarily as a remote organization like so many other organizations around the country. Similarly, we had to adapt to a virtual world overnight. Regardless of this monumental challenge, Cecil Centre has remained true to our mission of ‘enhancing the quality of life’ of some of our most vulnerable neighbours, and being “responsive to local needs”. This is something I have come to recognize may be the secret to Cecil’s success and resilience. One community. One shared commitment to our principle mission. A mission that is unwavering regardless of challenges and adverse circumstances.

Among our most important assets is the well qualified and passionate staff. They empower families and individuals to become engaged citizens of our community. From our Executive Director and leadership team to the front line staff, Cecil Centre is committed to delivering the highest quality programs and services. I want to extend my personal thanks to this dedicated team who have adapted so efficiently to the “new normal’ and continue to create a safe space where there is *Something for Everyone!*

As we conclude this year of transformation and prepare for a full reopening, Cecil Centre stands prepared to support our community with greater focus and strength. The year 2021 will be a year where we will engage our community and use our partner’s and collaborator’s input to develop a new strategic plan that builds our capacity to better support the evolving needs of the families and individuals we serve.

Thank you for being part of Cecil Community Centre and we look forward to sharing future triumphs with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Serena Purdy'.

Serena Purdy

Chair, Board of Management

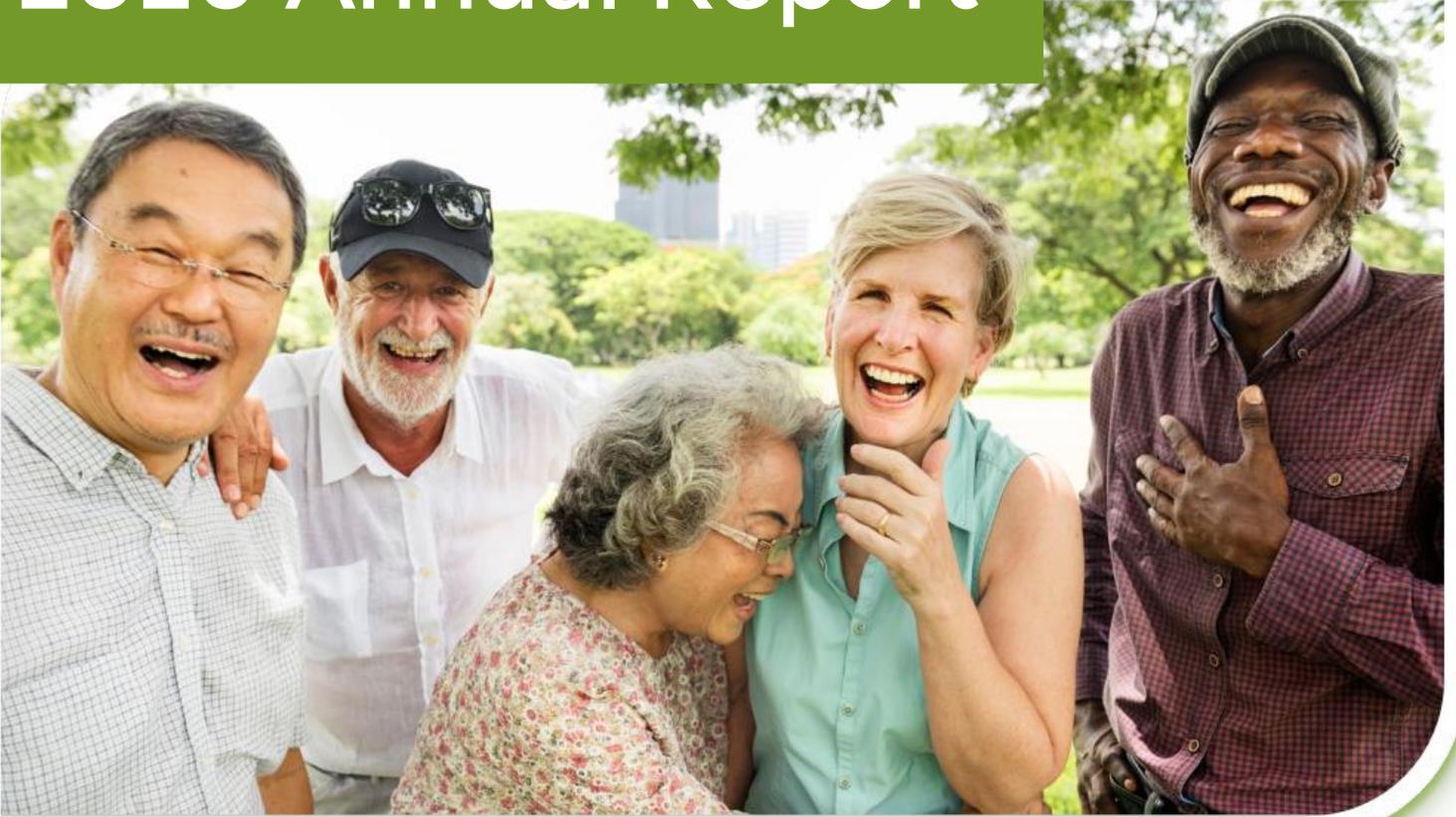
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Danny Anckle'.

Danny Anckle

Executive Director

Something for Everyone!

2020 Annual Report



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2020 was certainly a whirlwind! While the first quarter was on track to be an exciting year for the Centre, no one could have imagined what was in store. Following the year-end break for the Holidays we provided regular programming which included Tai-Chi, Seniors Congregate Dining and the Monday Night Drop only to see them come to a sudden and complete stop on March 14. We quickly shifted to virtual programming, where it was possible, and worked to ensure that we stayed connected with community members, particularly the seniors and youth.

Although the Centre was not open from March to July, we offered virtual programming for the EarlyON and CecilKids! Children's program families, and volunteer-led virtual programming for our Karaoke and Line Dancing participants. Drawing on our expertise, we offered the annual Income Tax Clinic virtually, and by telephone. We did our part and stayed home, maintaining regular contact with the City of Toronto to find out when we could safely reopen the Centre and be available for the community.

On July 13, we formally began the process to reopen our Centre to provide essential services including the Community Lounge and Public Access Computers, a Cooling Centre on extreme weather days, public washrooms, and the CecilKids! Summer Day Camp. Our meticulous attention to safety meant that all of these in-person activities ran completely problem free, despite the ongoing COVID-19 limitations. As the summer months came to an end, we said goodbye to our campers and prepared for the CecilKids! After School Program.

When school reopened in September, we re-launched the 2020-21 After School Program, with a new component, a "safe walk" for children to be picked up from school by program staff. We also provided snacks and homework support. The After School Program staff worked diligently to offer STEAM based program with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math activities, while keeping fun at the forefront. The months passed and as 2020 drew to a close, we finished the year with the first CecilKids! Winter Break (in-person) Camp and virtual seniors programming.



*"Audrey always has a **big smile** on her face when we tell her it's time to go to **Cecil** again."*

Cecil Centre recognizes the importance of supporting families, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our CecilKids! programs diligently worked to provide after school programming, virtual check-ins and events, and day camp experiences while following Provincial safety guidelines and recommendations from the City of Toronto and the . When in person activities were permitted, our CecilKids! staff continued to provide children with a fun and welcoming space to be themselves, make new friends, and learn about so many different things, including how to make elephant toothpaste!

When Provincial lockdowns and stay-at-home orders were mandated, we adapted our programming to provide homework help, check-ins, and played virtual games with children who may have been missing their friends. We were also able to start a virtual video game club that provided an opportunity for children to engage with their peers - with a great response! We look forward to continuing to support our CecilKids families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.





CECIL CENTRE SUMMER 2020 REOPENING

“City of Toronto to cancel programs and close facilities as COVID-19 precaution”. This was the headline of a City of Toronto news release on Friday March 13, 2020. The media release was followed by an email to all executive directors from the City Manager, Chris Murray, “... recommending that all AOCCs and Arena Boards consider the closure of their facility.”



The Board of Cecil Centre decided to follow this advice and gave instructions to close the Centre. All programs (including facility rentals) were immediately cancelled and staff and members were contacted.

For several weeks residents of the City of Toronto lived with the uncertainty of this new global pandemic, and City leaders grappled with the question of when to reopen. What began as a 3-week closure to slow the spread ended up lasting more than fifteen months.

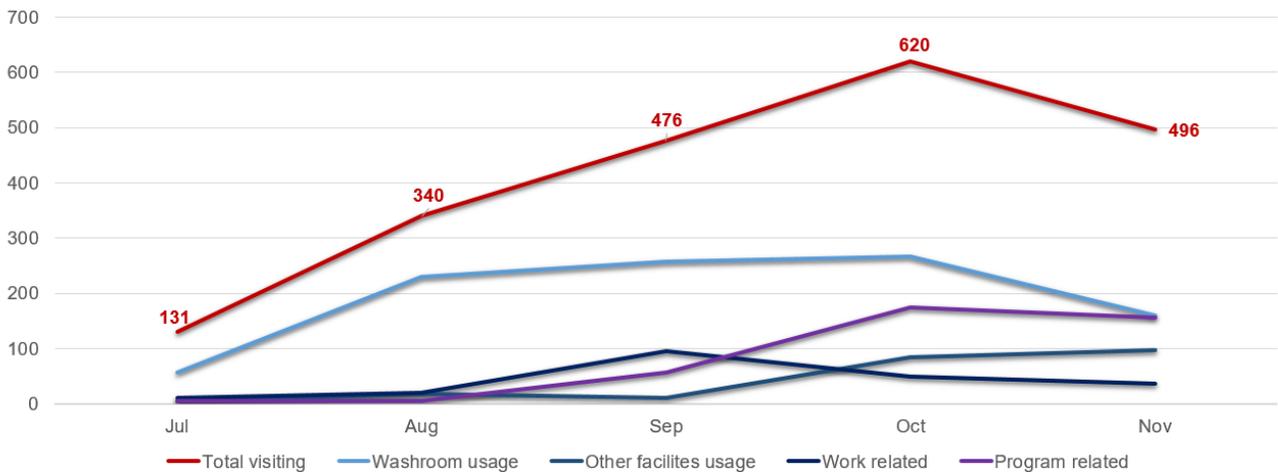
In early June, the City commenced a cautious resumption of businesses and services and provided Public Health guidelines for safe reopening. On July 20th, the Centre reopened with limited capacity to provide “essential services” to some of Kensington-Chinatown’s most vulnerable residents.

VISITOR SUMMARY (JULY 14 – NOV 30, 2020)

- This summary reflects the number of visit (Not numbers of individuals visiting).
- Number of visitors has increased month over month from mid-July to the end of 2020.
- All visitors declared no symptoms and no travelling or being exposed with risks of COVID-19
- 98% of visitors came in wearing masks (except for a few COPD cases, or persons who did not have masks)

The majority of visitors came to the Centre for:

- Washroom use and other facilities (Community Lounge, Public Access Computers)
- Meeting with staff, working (as temporary staff, students, or volunteers)
- Participation in programs (increased in September 2020 when the CecilKids! After School Program reopened)
- Other reasons included requests for materials (foods, masks, water, etc.) or assistance from the Community Worker



The Cecil Board of Management decided that the Centre would reopen to provide public washrooms, limited capacity Community Lounge with access to two Public Access Computers, a cooling centre on days when Environment Canada issues an extreme weather alert, and the CecilKids! Summer Day Camp program. It was critically important that the reopening of the Centre would meet health guidelines designed in consultation with Toronto Public Health and would be in alignment with provincial health guidelines for day camps. Guidelines included lower ratios and capacity, physical distancing, mandatory health screening, and enhanced facility cleaning.

As you can see from the chart above, we are thrilled to report that our decision to provide essential services for our community was justified by the increase in numbers from July 14 to November 30, and a total number of visits of more than 2,000.



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, and Youth Programs.

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 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.



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.





EARLYON RETURNED TO CECIL WITH OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING

Toronto Public Health officially reopened the EarlyON programs on November 9th, and we were able to offer families outdoor programming. While we continued to offer workshops, virtual Circle Time and posted crafts, games and activities for our EarlyON families on our web site, we opened dedicated time slots for families to join with Kate, Program Coordinator, for in-person programming in our outdoor courtyard space.

Things looked a little different. We enhanced our program policies and procedures, and pre-registration was required. In person programming was only offered on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and registration had to be submitted one day prior by 4PM. We ran the very popular outdoor program until November 20th when TPH temporarily halted all EarlyON in-person programs.

If you would like more information or are interested in joining our EarlyON mailing list, please contact: earlyon.cecil@gmail.com.



All Families Welcome!

Member Spotlight | Bernard

"I come to Cecil Community Centre because it is like a second home to me. I've been coming here since 1969. Coming here has become a part of my daily routine and is actually my favorite part of my day. When I come to Cecil, I have the time to check my emails and keep in touch with family, because I don't own a cellphone and this is the only way I can stay in touch with them. I also read the Chinese newspaper to stay updated on news back home. Cecil is a place I feel comfortable at and the staff is always very welcoming and helpful. I really like the idea of having public computers with internet access and complimentary snacks. I also like the programs they have to offer even though most of them aren't running due to COVID-19. Playing ping pong before the pandemic was one of my favorite activities. If I didn't come to Cecil, I would probably be bored at home because there is nowhere else to go, especially in these times. I am glad Cecil remained open because I don't know what I would do."



CECIL IMPACT 2020

Families registered in CecilKids! programs	20
Families engaged in EarlyON activities	200
Seniors participated in virtual activities	50
Income tax returns processed	150





CECIL CENTRE STAFF

Executive Director	Danny Anckle
Director, Finance and Operations	Manjola Konomi
Business Manager	Alexander Joseph
Director, Programs and Community Services	Katherine Gatt
Program Manager	Tarah Hamilton
Manager, Strategic Initiatives	Beryl Tsang
Children’s Program Assistants	Abidemi Ademaye Jessica Sia
EarlyOn Family Resource Centre Coordinator	Katsiaryna (Kate) Viktarovich
EarlyON Program Assistant	Amirthy Puvanenthira
Seniors Program Coordinator	Anna Basu
Community Worker	Serena Dawson
Reception/Office Assistant	(Mary) Tong Shan
Front Desk/Security	Amy Chang Alexander Hung Manny Medeiros Alice Tam
Custodial Staff	Tim O’Hearn Peter Louie Valentine Ssembajwe
Summer Program Coordinator	Faduma Elmi



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The following Board Members served to the end of 2020

Serena Purdy	Chair
Lynn Daly	Vice-Chair
Ralph Daley	Treasurer
Laura Mandelbaum	Secretary
Richard Kang Choo	
Councillor Mike Layton (Ward 11)	

The following Board Members served during 2020

Sayeh Hassan	Neville Madan
Stanley Ho	Adam Mamdani
Feroza Khan	Lauren Ng
David Kim	Andrew Reddin
Adelaide Kuratczyk	Kathryn Sullivan
Grace Lau	Dorene Weston



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

City of Toronto: Core Grant	696,455	Core administration funding from the City of Toronto
City of Toronto Program Grants	5,530	Community Services Program Grant
Provincial Grants	28,549	Early Years (EarlyON Family Resource Centre)
Federal Government Grants	18,647	Canada Summer Jobs grant and Seniors grant
Interest	961	Reserve funds are invested in GICs and low-risk bonds
Rentals	12,117	
Program Fees	8,552	
Charitable Donations	7,441	
Other Income	3,875	
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	5,911	
Total	788,038	

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Wages	537,794
Benefits	110,841
Materials and Supplies	36,420
Purchase of Services	84,841
Amortization of Capital; Assets	5,911
Total	775,807
Surplus	12,231

The Board of Management is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting. The Board reviews the Centre's financial statements and discusses any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to the approval of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been audited by Welch LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the City of Toronto's City Council, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. The accompanying Independent Auditor's Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Centre's financial statements.

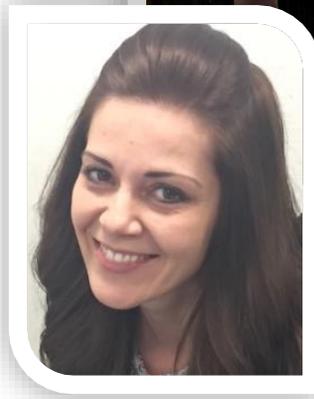


Dedication of the Manjola Konomi Conference Room

Grief and loss can be difficult to experience at any point in a person's life, and with the continuing COVID-19 pandemic these challenges have been heightened. We want to take a moment to acknowledge the losses that have been felt within the Kensington/Chinatown Community, and, in particular, those related to COVID-19. The Cecil Community Centre Board and staff would also like to share the loss of one of our own Cecil People, **Manjola Konomi**. Manjola passed away in May from health complications and is survived by her husband Brian and their three children, Krystal, Aiden and Zachary. The team at Cecil are a close-knit group and we miss our colleague and friend dearly. Manjola's family are always in our thoughts and prayers, and she will be forever in our hearts.



Manjola was a very caring person who was always willing to step in and lend a hand. In 2018, she traded her large office for a smaller one so that we could create a much-needed meeting space. The Board and staff have decided to rename and dedicate this room – the **Manjola Konomi Conference Room** – in memory of Manjola.



Thank you to our Donors



Anne Powell
Cindy Bowman
Cynthia French
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Dorene Weston
Doris Jantzi Jantzi
Gail Geltner
Glenn Goldman
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Ralph Daley
Richard Kang Choo
Sanagan's Meat Locker
Sandra Mooney
Serena Purdy
Stanley Ho
Sylvie Labrosse
Tasty Caribbean Restaurant
Val Colden
Wendy Freeman
Zane Caplansky

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS



In partnership with the Chinatown BIA and OCAD University, The STEPS Initiative produced a large-scale lantern installation at the Dragon City Mall as part of Chinatown's 2020 Chinese New Year celebration. Leading to the installation Cecil hosted a series of free, intergenerational art workshops where participants created one-of-a-kind lanterns for this exhibit.



**Toronto
Symphony
Orchestra**

We would like to thank the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** for providing free tickets for a group of our seniors to attend a Community Concert on Wednesday, February 26th. For many of our seniors, this was their first real "symphony" experience. Cecil continues to partner with the TSO and we look forward to many more symphony experiences for our members and friends.



Ontario

Canada



United Way
Greater Toronto

Thank You to our Income Tax Clinic Volunteers

Susan Belyea, Jane Duodo, Brian McDonough and Marco Cevallos

We extend our deepest, heartfelt thanks to our volunteers for their generous gift of time and commitment in the Canada Revenue Agency Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

Now that the 2020 Tax filing season has ended, we reflect on the wonderful dedication you showed in helping your fellow Canadians. Your desire to support others in need, even as you faced your own challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, truly shows the strength of communities across Canada. **THANK YOU!**



Member Spotlight | Conroy

"I recently started coming to Cecil about a month and a half ago. I came in to use the washroom and the receptionist was kind enough to tell me about the community lounge upstairs and ever since then I have been coming here every day and I love it here. It has now become a huge part of my day as I am here at least 7 hours a day. I enjoy coming here to use their washroom, Wi-Fi, resources and to stay warm. I also come to get advice and help with any of my needs or questions from the Community Worker. I like coming here because of the amazing staff, it's one of the only places where I can come and not be judged. It's a very comfortable and peaceful environment, and a bonus is the snacks they are always offering me. The only thing that I would like to see at Cecil, is more fun activities, other than that it's a great place to be if you have nowhere else to go, like me. Before I discovered Cecil, I was going to the library, but since they closed along with many other places, I don't really have a lot of options. I'm glad I found out about Cecil Community Centre, they've been really good to me and I like what they're doing for the community."

CECILVENUES ~ A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



In 2020, Cecil Community Centre, retained the services of the Rotman-Nexus Consulting Group to complete a Feasibility Study that could allow our space to generate income for our programs, and services, and create greater income security our neighbours.

After six months of working with our Board, staff, and stakeholders, Nexus presented its findings to the Cecil Board in February 2020.

The study found that we are a grand and iconic site with a prime location that is accessible, and affordable for hosting weddings, parties, educational and community events, classes, workshops, and art exhibitions.

Even though, we were closed for rentals, during 2020, there was still a keen interest in booking our space once we reopened. We continued to receive advance bookings for the 2021 season.

As we move forward with re-opening we are committed to providing a memorable event experience for individuals and institutions that will deepen the Centre's social footprint. We strive to foster a thriving economy through job creation, and local partnerships, while staying true to the Centre's values of community, integrity, responsiveness, and service excellence.

In the next year, we expect to maximize the Centre's capacity to earn an income from our spaces while remaining socially responsible; improving opportunities for community members experiencing barriers to employment by developing employable skills through **CecilVenues** and earn supplemental income. We plan to make new communities, and audiences aware of **CecilVenues**, and become *"the rental space for groups and individuals wanting to hold events in a heritage building with character."*

We hope that as members of the Cecil community you will work with us to make **CecilVenues** a reality.





Cecil Community Centre Stands with Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) in the Fight against Anti-Black Racism!

Cecil Community Centre (CCC) acknowledges that Anti-Black Racism exists and that it has an impact on the health and well-being of Black-Canadians.

CCC serves a diverse community, and we are mindful of the events of the past months, and the toll it has taken on our Black colleagues, friends, and neighbours. We have been horrified by the images and stories of overt and systemic acts of anti-black racism, and specifically, the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet in the presence of Toronto police during a wellness check, and the violent deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of the police in the US. The impact of these acts of violence has been felt by many Canadians but especially by those of African descent, who were already feeling targeted and unsafe. Cecil Community Centre stands with Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC). We recognize and acknowledge that Anti-Black Racism exists and that it has an impact on the health and well-being of Black-Canadians. We are committed to social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and anti-racism. These tragedies emerge from long-standing dynamics of anti-Black racism and white privilege.

Anti-Black Racism is defined as prejudice, attitudes, beliefs, stereotyping and discrimination that is directed at people of Black-African descent. The term 'Anti-Black Racism' was first expressed by Dr. Akua Benjamin, a Ryerson Social Work Professor. It highlights the unique nature of systemic racism toward Black-Canadians due to histories of slavery and colonization of people of Black-African descent in Canada. The roots of anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination in Canada run deep. They are historically embedded in our society, in our culture, in our laws and in our attitudes. They are built into our institutions and perpetuate the social and economic disparities that exist in everything from education, to healthcare, to housing and employment.

We recognize that eliminating Anti-Black Racism requires support from all levels of government, institutions, businesses, schools, healthcare, social service and community agencies, and individuals. We stand behind the *Alliance for Healthier Communities' Black Health Committee*, the *Black Health Alliance*, and *Network for Advancement of Black Communities (NABC)* in **declaring racism as a public health crisis**. Our Association of Community Centres (AOCC) 2020 budget reflects that tackling this structural discrimination and advancing ongoing anti-oppression is an integral part of our work. A critical component of undoing anti-Black racism is working towards making Black life liveable. We will be responsible and accountable to our clients, colleagues and our community as we undertake to confront and change systems of oppression.

Now is the time for all Canadians, but especially non-racialized Canadians, to listen, learn and reflect on how white privilege and systemic racism contribute to injustice and inequality in this country. We need to look inwards and challenge our biases, fears, assumptions and privilege. We need to have difficult and uncomfortable conversations. We must recognize and respect the leadership of voices from the Black community, and learn from lived experiences of anti-Black racism.

CCC believes that an ongoing commitment to applying an anti-oppression, anti-racist lens to everything we do is critical to the organization's function. We serve a vibrant community, and our mission is to make CCC a healthy and inclusive space.

What CCC will do:

Organizational change

Review and strengthen our organizational policies, procedures and practices.

Program change

Review and course correct our service and program delivery on an ongoing basis.

Community change

Promote and participate in issue-based campaigns and community education addressing violence and anti-Black racism.

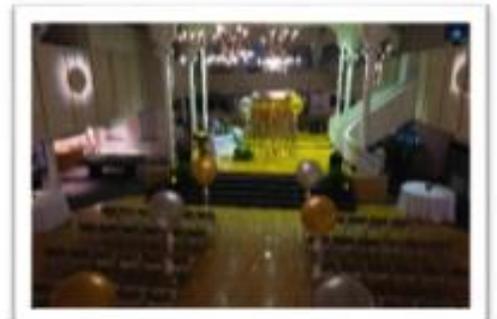




Book your next event at
Cecil Community Centre

Large Licenced Hall Perfect for
Weddings, Parties, and Meetings

Includes tables, chairs, stage and kitchen
Classroom Spaces and Meeting Rooms also Available



Contact Beryl Tsang: beryl@CecilCentre.ca or call 416-392-1090 ext. 233 for more information or to book