

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:



REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL'S "HOME MADE VISIBLE" EXPANDING CANADA'S MEDIA ARCHIVES

Participants Reflect On Project's Impact In Its First Year

Toronto - Thursday, August 16, 2018: Home Made Visible, the nationwide archival project by **The Regent Park Film Festival** made in partnership with **Charles Street Video** and **York University Libraries** launched in fall 2017 responding to a gap in representation in Canada's media archives of Indigenous and visible minority communities.

Central to the Project is the collection and FREE digitization of old home movies. A clip from the digitized home movies is then identified by the participant for archiving. The Project, unique in its nationwide scope, comes from a community film festival that believes no place or person has a singular story.

Home movies illuminate a reality overlooked for Indigenous and racialized people, a close gaze at everyday life, culture and celebration as captured by the subjects themselves. The Project asks, what is the sustained value of personal family archives, for families but also for whole groups of people? What has been and continues to be the impact of the absence of archival representation on a whole community?

The footage is often brought back and shared with family and friends, and for many this is an opportunity to return to people and places past. When asked about the Project experience participants speak of the marvel of accessing memories, the wonder of younger selves, and the continued pride and connection to their communities.

"Our people live in Canada too."

—Keo Kanha, participant

Highlights from the Home Made Visible collection include a family reunion in the '90s to home abroad in Bristol, England, a Khmer-Krom birthday gathering and dance party in the '80s, a rehearsal for the Toronto Raptors Junior Dance Pak, a Haitian family in the "Storm of the Century" in Montreal in '71, and intimate glimpses into Christmas mornings in numerous households.

To date the Project has 125 pieces from 17 participants. While the bulk of submissions come from Ontario, our furthest participant hails from Lethbridge, Alberta. We see this gap as an opportunity to create local partnerships across provinces and territories. We are partnering with Regional Digitization and Outreach Partners to push local efforts.

By the Project's close in 2019, we hope to engage 50 participants across the country and to have digitized 200 pieces of material. Housed at York University these materials, depending on the consent of the participant, can be accessed not only by researchers but also by the wider public. These entrances into the archives will bring greater diversity to the way we remember Canada and the experiences it constitutes.

"[The Project] is asking Canadians that aren't usually put in the forefront to tell their stories. I love that it's a focus now."

—Leah Burke, participant

Digitized and archived materials will live on the York University Libraries' website [here](#). If you're interested in writing a piece you can speak with a participant and the Project organizers Ananya Ohri (Artistic Director) and/or Elizabeth Mudeny (Special Projects Manager). More images available upon request.



(Gift of Valcin family, NYC 1969)

Home Made Visible is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter program. With this \$35M investment, the Council supports the creation and sharing of the arts in communities across Canada.

Ce projet est l'un des 200 projets exceptionnels soutenus par le programme Nouveau chapitre du Conseil des arts du Canada. Avec cet investissement 35M\$, le Conseil des arts appuie la création et le partage des arts au cœur de nos vies et dans l'ensemble du Canada.

www.HomeMadeVisible.ca

PARTNERS

Charles Street Video, **Technical and Commissioning Partner**

York University Libraries, **Archival Partner**

Regent Park Film Festival Toronto's only free community film festival. In addition to the annual film festival and Under the Stars: Movies in the park we host year-round film screenings, school programs and workshops, all at no cost.

Charles Street Video (CSV) is a non-profit production organization established in 1981 to help support media artists. They provide affordable access to equipment and post-production editing facilities for creating videos, films, installations and other media art forms. They regularly offer workshops, training sessions and residencies. Their ethos is largely focused on encouraging an artisanal, 'do-it-yourself' professionalism.

York University Libraries York University Libraries is the library system of York University. The four main libraries and one archive contain more than 2,500,000 volumes. York University Libraries is the stewardship of York's research assets, with a focus on the active selection, storage, preservation, and sharing of its collections.

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