



# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

OUR IMPACT IN  
2022-2023

# Thank you for helping us celebrate 20 years of film & community in Regent Park!

Dear Community Members, Attendees & Supporters,

This was an incredibly exciting year for Regent Park Film Festival. Not only was it our first time presenting in-person programming again after two years online, we also celebrated two decades of connecting diverse audiences to representative films that change the way they see themselves and their community members.

Support from community members like yourself is vital to achieving our mission. Dedicated sponsors, donors and patrons enable us to continue offering our year-round programming entirely FREE, removing various barriers to access for those who wish to participate and attend.

Thank you for being a champion of our work. We hope you will continue to play an important role in the growth of RPFF in our next impactful decade.

Sincerely,



Kalpana Srinarayanadas  
**Executive Director**



... and the RPFF team

[Continue reading about highlights from our 20th anniversary year ...](#)

# Our Year in Numbers

"Great community centered festival that unites and highlights BIPOC creators by far the best that I've seen in the film circuit. Everyone was so friendly and made more friends here than festivals back home - I can't wait to come back in 2023!"

- **Festival Attendee**

**\$6,000**  
Cash Prizes Awarded  
+  
**\$20,000**  
In-Kind Resources Awarded

**70%**  
of audiences  
identified as BIPOC

**107**  
Artists paid to  
present their work

**10,500**  
Online Viewers  
+ Attendees

**NEW!**  
**Industry  
Lounge**  
2022  
Annual Festival

"Absolutely love your organization. Students loved seeing themselves represented in the films. For an Ethiopian student to give the feedback to me that they loved the film because there was an Ethiopian kid in the film, well, you just can't beat that!!"

- **Teacher , Festival School Program**

"I love the ambience and to see community coming together. Also appreciate all the different foods and cool music!"

- **UTS Attendee**

**5 features; 19  
shorts films; 3 film  
talkbacks; 4  
industry panels; 2  
workshops**

2022 Annual  
Festival

**Year 5**  
Live it to Learn It  
Industry Internship  
Program

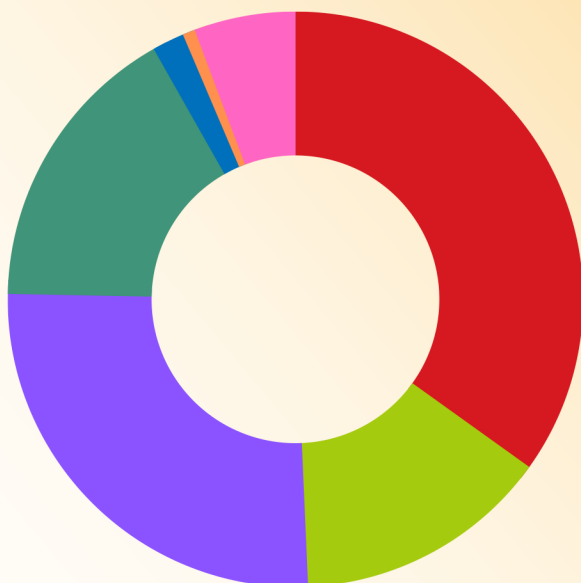


# 2022-2023 Finances

RPFF's mission is to offer programming that is entirely FREE and accessible to everyone, regardless of financial or social status. Removing barriers to participation is core to our mission and why we also provide free childcare, free film submissions, and pay all artists for their work and participation.

## Revenue

**94.3% of RPFF's revenue** came from year-round fundraising last year



Government Operating Grants	34.9%
Annual Project Grants	26%
Corporate Sponsorship	16.5%
Government Assistance (COVID, Wage Subsidy, Tax Return)	14.4%
Earned Revenue (Popcorn, merch sales; space rentals)	5.7%
Individual & Corporate Donors	1.8%
Foundations	0.7%

## Expenses

RPFF recently expanded our permanent team to manage staff burnout.

Administration	30.6%
Marketing & Outreach	20.9%
Programs & Production	48.5%





# Our Year-Round Programs

## Regent Park Made Visible

Our 20th anniversary project, in which we commissioned 5 local BIPOC artists to produce digital media works that engaged with the history of Regent Park, was a resounding success! The various creative techniques used by each filmmaker - animation, archival montage, magical realism - was indicative of the countless possibilities in storytelling when filmmakers are given space and freedom to express their creativity. We launched the exhibition online in September, and brought it back in-person and online during our Annual Festival.



## Live It To Learn It

In its 5th year, our paid summer internship program for Black youth, invited 3 interns to work on *The Great Canadian Baking Show* from May to September. It was their first experience working on a production and they each worked in different areas of the filmmaking process: audio, editing, and general production. One intern was hired on for another job with the connections they made during their internship. These experiences continue to be vital to opening doors for youth who wouldn't normally have access or the connections to find these roles.





July 2022

# Under the Stars

A pillar event in Regent Park since 2014, UTS brings people of all ages, cultures and communities together for nights of **free film, food and performances** in the heart of our community, the Big Park, every summer. Emerging from two years as an online event, RPFF was excited to bring UTS back into the crisp summer evening air for three Wednesdays in July. New this year, we hosted a **community-wide Block Party** to celebrate not only our 20th anniversary, but also the resilience and fortitude of the neighbourhood these past few years and finally coming together as a community again.

For our Block Party, we invited **local artists and performers** to share their talents; community organizations to create activations for people of all ages, highlighting the amazing creativity that takes place in our community; and we created an **Elders & Accessibility lounge, removing barriers** for those who wanted to participate in the fun.





# December 7-10, 2022

## 20th Anniversary Regent Park Film Festival

We were thrilled to bring our 20th Annual Film Festival back fully in person to celebrate our milestone anniversary. It was an ambitious year in which we had **more programming than ever before**, and hosted our Festival **School Program both online and in-person**, while also finding new ways to connect emerging filmmakers to people and resources in the industry.

In addition to highlighting local and international BIPOC talent in 5 feature films and 19 short films, we had retrospective programming to reflect on different aspects of our 20 years. We invited past winners of our **Emerging Directors' Pitch Competition** to share the impact it had on their careers and how their career have evolved since then. We also invited past Executive Directors for a panel, "**20 Years of Film & Community in Regent Park**," to revisit and meditate on how RPF has grown over the years.



"I had one student reflect that they felt seen in the video on Blue Curry. It's so important for students to be represented and seen in media."

- Teacher, Festival School Program

# 20th Regent Park Film Festival

## Industry Programming

New this year, we created an **Industry Lounge** for new, aspiring, and established filmmakers to relax, speak with industry insiders, learn about available resources, and meet potential new collaborators. We were grateful to have beautiful vintage furniture from **Williams Design** to fill the space, and an exclusive exhibit of **Walter Klassen FX's** props and costumes from popular Toronto productions.



Community partners tabling in the lounge included **Liaison of Independent Filmmakers, Trinity Square Video, Reelworld Screen Institute, BIPOC TV & Film, Media Arts Network of Ontario, ACTRA Toronto, Racial Equity Media Collective.**

We also grateful to our industry partners who helped us bring engaging and thought-provoking panels and workshops: **Rooster Post Production, Living Hyphen, The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, Music Publishers Canada, and Corus Entertainment.**



"Great community centered festival that unites and highlights BIPOC creators. By far the best that I've seen in the film circuit. I can't wait to come back in 2023!"

- Festival Attendee



# It's ALL FREE - really!

From the very beginning, it has been vital to RPFF's mission as an organization to offer programming that is free and accessible to anyone who wishes to participate and attend. Everything we offer is free, and we mean EVERYTHING.



## FREE Community Screenings

Independent and international films shown at film festivals throughout the city can often be financially prohibitive for many people. We believe great storytelling should be accessible and available to everyone, so we host free community screenings throughout the year.



## FREE School Programs

We provide access to films which address social issues affecting Toronto's diverse student population, as well as resources and lesson plans to teachers to facilitate dialogue about these issues, and critical conversations about art, creativity, and all students' lived experiences.



## FREE Internships & Learning Opportunities

Hands-on industry experience and opportunities to work on film sets can feel unattainable to some youth. RPFF works with leading production houses and local media organizations to create opportunities for young people to gain experience in a booming Toronto film industry.



## FREE Industry Panels & Workshops

Pathways to careers in films can often be unclear and confusing without guidance. Using our networks and industry partnerships, we give youth an opportunity to explore different aspects of the industry through workshops, hands-on learning and access to industry veterans.



## FREE Film Submissions

Filmmakers can spend hundreds of dollars submitting their films to festivals worldwide just to be considered and given the chance to launch their careers. RPFF refuses to create any barriers for filmmakers to share their creative collaboration and hard work with the world.



## FREE Child Care

From our very first film festival, RPFF has always provided free child care for every day of our Festival. Thinking holistically about the life of a creative and artist, and removing any additional barriers to participating in the film festival is vitally important to RPFF.



## FREE Film Festival

As a film-loving city, everyone in Toronto should be able to watch incredible independent and international works, and experience the power of film to bring people together and delve into another world. RPFF has always been and will always be free and accessible to all.

# Join us again next year . . .

As we begin a new year, we look forward to partnering with you again to bring FREE programming to the communities we serve.

We're thrilled to share we will be reviving our regular series of year-round community film screenings and industry workshops starting in April. And of course, be sure to save the date for *Under the Stars* - celebrating its 10th year - and our Annual Film Festival this year!

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVI



## UNDER THE STARS

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!**

**Every Wednesday at sundown  
July 5 -28**

## 21st Annual Regent Park Film Festival

**NOVEMBER 23 - 26**



**To get involved, contact:**

**Kalpana Srinarayanadas**

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