



2023-2024



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

THANK YOU!

Dear Community Members, Attendees, and Supporters,

It was another incredibly exciting year for Regent Park Film Festival. In the past year, we focused on presenting quality, meaningful core programs and prioritized reconnecting with the community in renewed ways. With your support, we have been able to increase our capacity as an organization and extend our reach even further this year!

Support from community members like yourself was vital to achieving our mission. We were able to partner with amazing creatives, industry professionals, and organizations this year that aligned with our values and mandate. Our 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.

Strengthening community belonging through providing access to art and culture that reflects the identities of individuals in our community has a significant impact on the community's growth and prosperity. With rising costs permeating every aspect of the arts today, your support has become more important than ever and we are so grateful for you!

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

Sincerely,



Kalpana Srinarayanadas
Executive Director



... and the RPF team

2023-2024 Highlights

“It is so amazing to see a community engagement opportunity like this - **there has to be over 100 people here, sharing this incredible experience together** - amazing job! Such a pleasant surprise.”

-2023 Under the Stars Attendee

28,440

Online Viewers
+ Attendees

80%

of audience
identified as BIPOC

Cash Prizes Awarded

\$11,000
+
\$5,300

In-Kind Resources
Awarded

217

Artists engaged



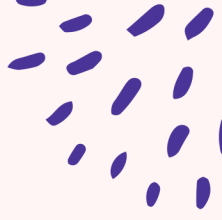
5 features;
43 shorts films;
7 film talkbacks;
4 industry panels;
1 industry night;
1 pitch competition;
1 community
breakfast

2023 Annual Festival

“The experience was wonderful like always, **initiatives like these are very important** to change the stigma associated with The Regent park community.”

-2023 Annual Festival Attendee

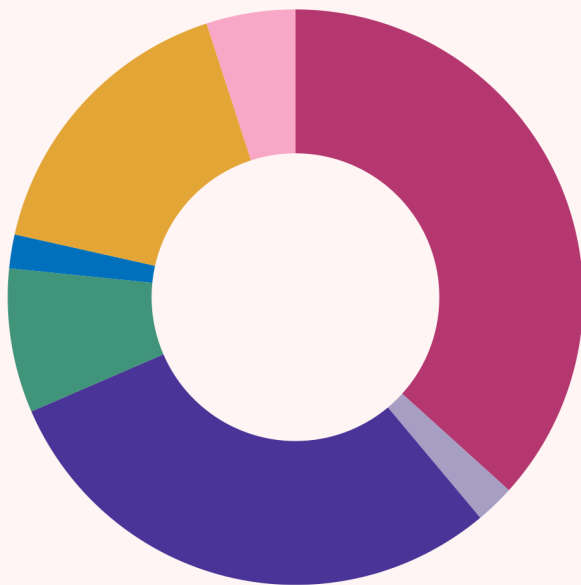
2023-2024 in Numbers



As an organization that provides **100% free programming**, our funders, sponsors, and donors make our work possible. Without our community of supporters, we could not continue our mission to make film and art accessible to everyone, regardless of financial or social status.

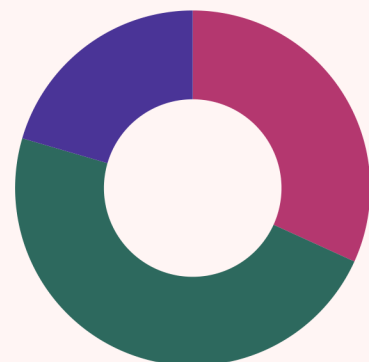
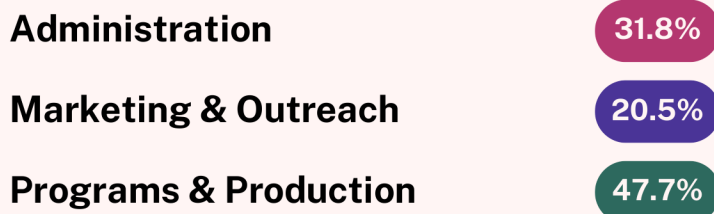
Revenue

95% of RPPF's revenue came from year-round fundraising last year

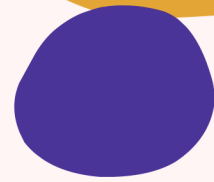


Expenses

RPPF received funding to increase its Marketing expenditure, and provided a 7% raise to all staff in an effort to get closer to a living wage.



OUR YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMMING



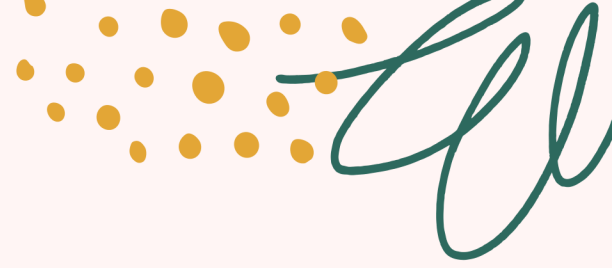
RPPF stayed active in the community this year through offering more varied, and consistent programming year-round!

	Program	Highlights
4	Under the Stars	We had over 6,000 attendees at our UTS screenings this past summer. We also organized an additional screening in Dentonia Park , a community similar to Regent Park.
4	Community Screenings	Showcasing films from Canadian filmmakers - we reached over 200 attendees, with more than half identifying as BIPOC .
1	22nd Annual Film Festival	Our annual film festival was held over 4 days and featured more films and industry programming than in previous years , as well as in-person and online versions of our School Program.



JULY 2023

Under the Stars



Under the Stars (UTS) has been a pillar event in Regent Park since 2014, bringing people of all ages, cultures and communities together for nights of free film showings, food and performances in the heart of our neighbourhood, the Big Park, every summer.

New this year, we hosted an additional screening in Dentonia Park, Scarborough! We were welcomed with open arms by the community as we showcased vital community organizations in the area, as well as meaningful film programming at no cost.

Over 6,000 people attended UTS this year!



APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2023

Community Screenings

With generous funding from City of Toronto's SDP program, RPF was able to bring back year-round community screenings.

An intentional and carefully curated series of film screenings were designed to reconnect with Regent Park residents post-pandemic. We believe in the power of film to strengthen community bonds through shared learning and discussion, while providing a space for people from all walks of life to enjoy a common experience together, building empathy and understanding through art and film.

We programmed varied community screenings, including films for National Canadian Film Day, Doors Open TO and Asian Heritage Month, and National Indigenous Heritage Month. We also partner with Hot Docs for their series: *Hot Docs at Home: Canadian Arts are Alive*". Over 200 people attended our screenings this year with over 60% of our audiences identifying as BIPOC!



NOVEMBER 23-26, 2023

21st Annual Regent Park Film Festival

Our 21st Annual Film Festival was a huge success as we welcomed 2,000 attendees to our festival in-person, and over **22,000 online!** Our festival had robust programming across four days, connecting emerging filmmakers to industry members, as well as highlighting local and international BIPOC talent in **5 feature films, and 44 mid-length and short films.**

To complement the 49 films we screened, we also presented:

- 7 post-film talkbacks
- 1 workshop: **“Stop Motion Animation Workshop with Akash Jones”**
- A table read of a holiday-inspired script
- 4 panels: "Viral Interventions," "Commercial Filmmaking: Production to Post," "Living with an Arts Wage," and "Financing Innovation"
- **FREE Community Breakfast**
- Industry Mixer
- Industry Meet & Greet



21st Annual Regent Park Film Festival

Industry Programming

We had diverse array of industry programming this year, providing more opportunities to connect with and learn from Industry leaders, and emerging creatives. New this year, we hosted an **Industry Mixer before our Emerging Directors' Pitch Competition**. It was a great opportunity for filmmakers to network and meet potential new collaborators. We also presented a Showcase of completed works from past Emerging Directors' Pitch Competition Winners who pitched in 2021 and 2022. Furthermore, our **Industry Meet & Greet** allowed aspiring and established filmmakers to speak with industry insiders and learn about various resources available to them including funding and incubators.

We are grateful to our industry partners who helped us bring thought-provoking panels and workshops: **ACTRA, Trinity Square Video, Sensorium, Rooster Post Production, The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, City of Toronto, OYA Media Group** and **INKspire**.



21st Annual Regent Park Film Festival

School Program

Our School Program, presented in conjunction with our annual film festival, is a curated film and media literacy series for educators and students across Canada in Grades 1-8.

**We welcomed 697 students in-person,
and 22,250 students online this year!**

Exploring various themes addressing social issues affecting Toronto's diverse student population, we also provide resources for educators to help them facilitate dialogue among their students, reflecting on their experiences with these issues, as well as critical conversations about art and creativity. These learning tools are created by RPF's Education Committee, comprised of teachers, teacher candidates, and individuals with a strong interest in film education.



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 100% 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 this year...



As we begin a new year, we look forward to partnering with you to bring **FREE** programming to the communities we serve. We're honoured to continue our mission to amplify marginalized communities and their stories, while ensuring art remains free and accessible to everyone.



We are grateful for your consideration in supporting RPF. We hope you will play a vital role in RPF's mission to bring FREE and accessible art to everyone, while showcasing the stories and work of local and international racialized artists.

To get involved, contact:

Kalpana Srinarayanadas

Executive Director

kalpana@rpff.ca | 647.869.2729

