



ANNUAL REPORT

OWTA.org

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Message From Founder

In 2018 OWTA delivered hundreds of workshops and events, and we launched a new program. We also introduced two new events to our roster of activities. In nearly 10 years we've had over 40,000 youth take part in one of our in-school or after-school programs and we hope to see more youth participate in our programs as we continue to grow. Listed below is a snapshot of the programs and events that we hosted in 2018:

- Triple AAA Black History Month National School Tour (Quebec, Alberta and British-Columbia)
- 1st Black History Month Caribbean Brunch
- 9 Year Anniversary Arts & Comedy Fundraiser
- 1st Musical Theatre Summer Camp
- 3rd Children's Sing-A-Long Series at Chapters Pointe-Claire
- 6th Summer Breeze: Acoustic Music Concert Series in partnership with Chapters Pointe-Claire and Starbucks
- 2nd Diversity in the Arts Conference
- 3rd Annual Countdown to Christmas Vendor Fair
- 6th Annual Winter Wonderland Brunch



We've been fortunate enough to call Riverdale High School home for the past 5 years. As we look toward the future we hope to build an arts centre to house all of our activities. The centre will be called the Overture Centre for the Arts and will be committed to developing and supporting young creative minds. With your continued support this dream can become a reality. We hope you will join us on this exciting journey.

Sincerely,



Akilah Newton
Founder & President



Mission

Overture with the Arts (OWTA) is a non-profit organization based in the West Island, offering education in music, dance, drama and vocal training. Our free and low-cost programs enable young people to pursue their passion in the performing arts when they wouldn't otherwise have the financial means to do so.

Vision

OWTA encourages youth to express themselves creatively and use the arts as a tool to empower their artistic inspirations and communicate in the areas of social justice.

Values

Professionalism • Youth •
Community • Diversity • Respect

Board of Directors

- President: Modupeh Taylor-Cline
- Treasurer: Kelvin Newton
- Secretary: Diane Bates
- Administrator: Nan Beaton
- Administrator: Justine McIntyre
- Administrator: Tina Wentzell
- Administrator: Dyana Gampel
- Administrator: Sophie Haynes
- Administrator: Agnes Katsouros
- Administrator: Sherri Rabinovitch

Programs

To carry out our goal of engaging with youth, OWTa runs several programs throughout the year. The programs are diverse in nature, including music, dance and radio broadcasts. Additionally, we focus on building partnerships with local organizations. This allows us to create a strong network of committed volunteers, partners and participants who continue to benefit from our activities.



Triple AAA: Artists, Athletes & Activism

For the 9th consecutive year we visited secondary schools with an edutainment (education and entertainment) presentation in celebration of Black History Month. The 2018 presentation focused on the contributions of artists, athletes and activists. We visited schools in Quebec, Alberta and British-Columbia and delivered 42 presentations. Approximately 8,500 youth benefitted from the presentation.

Events



9-Year Anniversary Fundraiser

On Saturday, April 21st we celebrated our 9-year anniversary at the Pierrefonds Cultural Centre. Guests sipped on wine, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and a music performance by youth who participated in our Girls Unite program. Additionally, 4 local comedians had us in stitches! All of the proceeds from the night went to funding our programs.



Black History Month Caribbean Brunch

On Sunday, February 18th, guests enjoyed a Caribbean meal, live music and a spoken word performance. Hosted by Breakfast Television Montreal's Catherine Verdon- Diamond, guests got a sneak peek of our 2018 Black History Month school presentation, Triple AAA, hosted by Omari Newton.



1st Spring Into Summer Family Fun Fair

On Saturday, May 26th we hosted a family fun fair at Riverdale High School. We had vendors, food, music and dance performances, a petting zoo, face painting and more! The weather didn't work in our favour so the event was indoors, but we still had a fun-filled afternoon with approximately 500 guests in attendance.

Events



Summer Breeze Concert Series

We hosted 6 free concerts on Fridays in July and August at Starbucks in Chapters Pointe-Claire. The shows were family friendly and all ages were welcome. Starbucks donated a fantastic gift basket to raffle off at each show and approximately 350 guests enjoyed the concert series.



Summer Sing-A-Longs

Every Thursday in July and August we hosted a children's Sing-A-Long at Chapters Pointe-Claire. From 11:00am to 11:30am children sang along to their favourite songs with Patricia Fitzgibbon. There was no cost to participate and we had a fantastic prize, courtesy of Chapters Pointe-Claire, to raffle off at the end of each workshop.



Diversity In The Arts Conference

On October 8 we hosted our 2nd Diversity in the Arts Conference. We had a much needed discussion about the lack of cultural diversity represented in the arts and entertainment industry and had an open dialogue regarding racism. Hosted by Tiffany Callender, panelists Omari Newton (Actor/ Playwright/ Spoken Word artist) and Melina Soochan (Singer/ Songwriter and music teacher) spoke about their experiences as visible minorities in the industry.

Events



6th Annual Winter Wonderland Brunch

For a sixth consecutive year we treated 25 families in need in the West Island to an afternoon of free activities at the Pierrefonds Cultural Centre. Guests enjoyed a warm brunch, a live music performance, a dance workshop and guests received a framed family portrait as a keepsake. Every child in attendance received gifts from Hatley, Beaver Books, Hasbro Toys, Peter Pauper Press, Regal Confections, Starbucks Pointe-Claire, Chapters, Wow Wee Toys and Sami Fruits donated products and food for the event. The event was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore Montreal Foundation.



Musical Theatre Summer Camp

From July 2 to August 17 youth between the age of 5 to 12 acted, danced and sang as they honed their skills in the performing arts. Kids had a fun filled summer becoming confident performers while making new friends. Participants also had the opportunity to perform in original musical theatre production at the end of the summer for their family and friends.

Overture Film

Overture Film is a program that introduces youth to film production through videography, video editing, storyboarding and more. Led by a professional filmmaker, this new program allows youth to learn new skills as they work in teams to create original short films and documentaries. Participants conceptualize their film ideas, create original scripts, research and secure locations to film and cast talent.

Events



3rd Annual Countdown To Christmas Vendor Fair

On Saturday, November 17 we hosted 25 local vendors and artisans at Riverdale High School in the cafeteria. Cosmetics, Health & Wellness, Jewellery and toys were some of the exciting booths that were onsite at the event. This free event was family friendly and children enjoyed a dance workshop, face painting, a magic show, a music performance and more! The event served as a fundraiser for OWTa.

Impact

Through various fundraising activities OWTa cultivated new donors, reached new supporters and raised some much needed funds. As a result of this we were able to continue running our regular programs and introduce new programs.

**INCREASED
FUNDING BY 75%**

**INTRODUCED
A NEW
PROGRAM**

**THOUSANDS OF
YOUTH IMPACTED
IN 2018**

Support and Networking - Members And Partners

- Riverdale High School Community Learning Centre
- Pearson Educational Foundation

Supporters

- The City of Pierrefonds-Roxboro, Jim Beis, Mayor of Pierrefonds & Councillors
- The City of Montreal
- Frank Baylis, MP for Pierrefonds/ Dollard-des-Ormeaux
- Francis Scarpaleggia, MP for Lac-Saint-Louis
- The Department of Canadian Heritage
- The Lester B. Pearson School Board Entrepreneurship Grant Program

- Alberta Association for Multicultural Education
- Arbonne Charitable Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore Montreal Foundation
- Martin Coiteux/ Monsef Derraji - MNA, Nelligan
- Carlos Leitão - MNA, Robert-Baldwin
- Geoffrey Kelley/ Greg Kelley - MNA, Jacques Cartier

2019 Objectives

- Exceed 2018 funding
- Acquire an office space
- Launch Membership Program to keep OWTa supporters engaged



We Need Your Help!

While we receive some government support, we depend on the generosity of individuals and corporations to continue to run our programs. We are a non-profit organization supported primarily by donations. To keep running programs, we need your help. We kindly ask you to consider donating to OWTA. No amount is too small.

Volunteer

Not everyone can make a financial contribution, but there are other ways that you can help OWTA. We are grateful for any involvement as it helps us to achieve our goal of providing free and low cost arts workshops to our community's youth. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer for OWTA, plan a fundraiser event, etc.



Thank You!

To all our partners, board members, sponsors and volunteers for your continued support. Every year we will reach new heights with the energy, passion, and the commitment to change the lives of youth through art.

Contact Information

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