



DiverseCity

THE GREATER TORONTO LEADERSHIP PROJECT

DiverseCity Fellows 2009 City-Building Action Projects

1. Toronto Youth Share

At this half-day youth skills-sharing event, youth who want to share resources or practical skills will present to peers with the goal of strengthening relationships across Toronto communities and building personal and group skill-sets. Youth from the non-profit, arts, advocacy, and entrepreneurial fields will be invited to the skill-share. Traditionally, organizations and institutions that interact/work with youth tend to rely on needs-based data/assumptions to understand how youth feel about their community and in turn create programs to address their personal/developmental deficits. Toronto Youth Share is creating an opportunity for youth to share the skills and knowledge they possess and to celebrate those skills and the acts of sharing.

Contact: *Chezlie Alexander, chezlie@bramaleachc.ca*

2. KNOW T.O.

KNOW T.O. is a board game. A game about Toronto. About Toronto's stories. About Toronto's history. About Toronto's diversity. Think Monopoly meets Trivial Pursuit. The objective of this project is to learn about Toronto in a fun and interesting way ... and in the process, become one of its ambassadors.

Contact: *Sam Vise, svise@cvstudio.com <http://knowto.wordpress.com/>*

3. Flavours From Home

Partnered with the North York Harvest Food Bank, this project will explore concrete sustainable opportunities to improve emergency food services for ethnic communities, including widening the Food Bank's access to culturally-familiar and nutritious foods more appropriate to the communities it serves, as well as supporting the Food Bank to be more accessible to ethnic communities.

Contact: *Jamil Bundalli, jbundalli@urbanstrategies.com*

4. Local Democracy Week (LDW)

Building on a program developed in the UK, Local Democracy Week is about getting young people more involved in and aware of their local governments and their personal role in the decision making process. Every election year, low voter turnout is a concern and various public opinion polls tell us that the average person is not concerned about government or politics. There is not a lot of diversity among elected officials. The goal of LDW is to change this trend by capturing the interest of diverse youth so that at the appropriate time, they will be more inclined to vote, and be more aware and engaged in the political decisions that affect citizens' daily lives. LDW will take place in November and consist of interactive events with politicians, civic leaders and youth.

Contact: *Tracey Sobers, tracey.sobers@ontario.ca*

5. CityBuilders

CityBuilders will profile young city builders who are contributing to the city in the physical and imaginary sense. These individuals and/or organizations will be photographed and profiled. Their stories will be compiled and published as a book, and the stories and photos will take other forms, such as travelling exhibitions or newspaper/magazine inserts, to reach different audiences. The book will be released at a forum/press conference where profiled individuals will be able to speak to media and the public at large about what being a diverse citybuilder means to him/her.

Contact: *info@citybuilders.to <http://www.citybuilders.to>*

6. My TO Tour: Exploring Toronto's Tales

My TO Tour will design a series of new Toronto tours that are inspired by the Tate Britain's walking tours. Working with communities in Toronto, the project team will establish a set of core principles/values that inspire the tour series. The idea of these tours as a city-building project is to create the platform for Torontonians and tourists to tell stories and share their hidden gems about the city. Through a small sample of prototypes, the team will offer up experiences and connect people to new and different elements of our city. This project is about creating a conversation for Torontonians, and to engage us all in thinking about our lived experiences in this city.

Contact: *Chi Nguyen, chi@masslbp.com*