



## **Message from the Chair**

Dr. Amy Hillis, Assistant Professor  
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The study, teaching, and implementation of academic research in the arts relies on its connection to external and “real-world” artistic practice. As scholars, researchers, teachers and performers at York University’s School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design, we seek opportunities to learn from our communities, share our own passions, and grow in a constant dialogue. The mission of the Helen Carswell Chair is to facilitate relationships between the York community and communities outside the university through the arts.

Established and supported by the Carswell Family Foundation in 2016, the Helen Carswell Chair supports research that explores community cultural development. With a focus on fostering a mutually beneficial relationship with the Jane-Finch community, the Helen Carswell Chair is proud to have a long-term partnership with RPSM Jane & Finch, the most recent branch of the incredible Regent Park School of Music. Through our work with RPSM and other Community Arts organizations, we seek to disseminate new knowledge and research to community-based groups in the Jane/Finch community and in other high-risk neighbourhoods around the world.

As a new member to this team, I am honoured to be a part of this mission to support community-engaged research in the arts. I look forward to working with community leaders in Jane/Finch neighbourhood and beyond as we explore how arts can empower and represent children of all ages, from all backgrounds.