



Message from the Chair (2017 – 2020)

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Research collaborations between two parties are quite common in academia. A three-way partnership between a family foundation, a university and a community arts organization is much rarer, but that is exactly how one would describe the Helen Carswell Chair in Community Engaged Research in the Arts.

As the Inaugural Fellow of this vibrant initiative, it has been my pleasure to represent and work alongside the School of Arts, Media Performance and Design (AMPD) at York University, the Carswell Family Foundation and the [RPSM](#) School of Music to benefit children in the Jane and Finch community.

Various faculty and community leaders form an Advisory Working Group for the Helen Carswell Chair. This includes our Dean, our Research Associate, Dr. Karen Cyrus, and the leadership team of RPSM ably led by Executive Director, Richard Marsella. They have worked very hard to develop a forum for multi-disciplinary research that will, no doubt, not only impact students and their families in the Jane-Finch community, but community music programs everywhere.

The first time that I was introduced to the RPSM was through their innovative and passionate, Executive Director, Richard Marsella. His single-minded focus and commitment to thinking 'outside of the box' with regard to music education is one of the reasons that this Chair exists.

Since its inception, the Helen Carswell community of researchers has grown along with the excitement around new research that is being made available to invested and interested stakeholders, community arts partners and subsequently, to the community at large. Join us on the journey of discovery as, together, we all work towards the goal of intentional pathways of success for students in the Jane-Finch area through thoughtful community arts organization initiatives. (August 2019)

Learn more about [RPSM here](#).
See [RPSM performances here](#).