A Movement of Changmakers UforChange



Tamer Ibrahim Laidlaw Foundation

Remember...

This is **ONE** story

There are others

St. James Town



What we heard

- Newcomer youth are disadvantaged by the systems they navigate
- Newcomer youth are being exposed to violence, crime, substance abuse
- Newcomer youth are experiencing family breakdown, culture shock and language barriers
- Summer of the Gun- Toronto, 2005

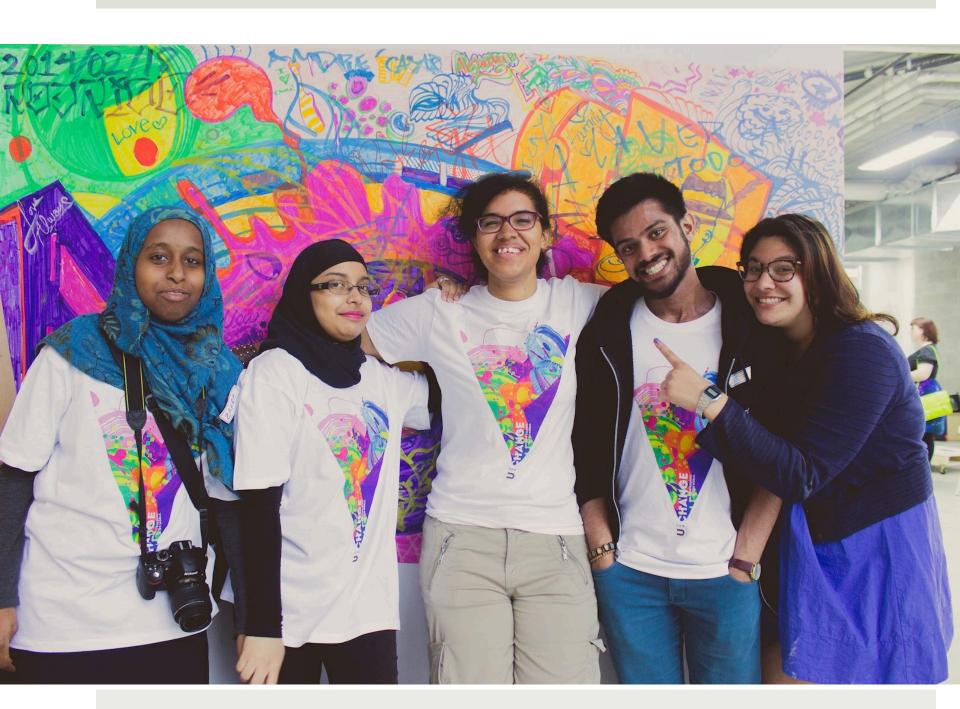
Opportunity

- Quality investment in a community-based initiative
- High-impact sustainable youth program with local community engagement
- Safe space for newcomer youth to convene, learn and connect with youth mentors

UECHANGE CREATIVE CULTURE. BETTER WORLD.

UforChange: How it began

- Began as the Youth Empowerment Project
- St. James Town Youth Council
- Began in 2008 seed funding from the Wellesley Institute
- \$10,000 capacity-building grant
- Toronto Youth Pluralism Project
- Citizenship Immigration Canada
- Sizeable investment: \$3.4 million dollars over 3 years





Program Offerings

Photography
Skills
Support
Employment
Education Guitar Life Cooking Theatre Writing
Makeup

Youth Leadership: Along the Journey

"We learned how to write grants, create budgets, develop strategic plans, supervise staff, create HR policies, build governing boards, plan events and fundraise. We joined research committees and grant juries, attended consultations, organized protests and participated in research reports. There were also the court dates we attended. the support letters we wrote, the visits to jails and to hospitals. And there were the funerals."

Taken from I spent my 20s working with Toronto youth, and today's gun violence conversations feel like déja vu-Amanda Parris

End of the Pilot

- Program over-delivered
- Government did not continue funding
- \$1,000,000 to \$150,000
- Decision: let's keep going

Keep Going

- Downsize operations: VERY part-time staff
- Move out of program hub and into in-kind community centre.
- Consolidate all programming, education and administrative functions to one physical space
- Fundraise
- Keep calm

The Trauma of Youth Leadership

- Investing in youth leadership & communities is the long game. Politicians don't invest in the long game
- Investing in policing is the short-game.
 Politicians invest in the short game.
- Too many consultations
- "Youth-leadership is just a trend"
- Outcome: Fatigue, burnout, leave the sector

Youth Leadership: Along the Journey

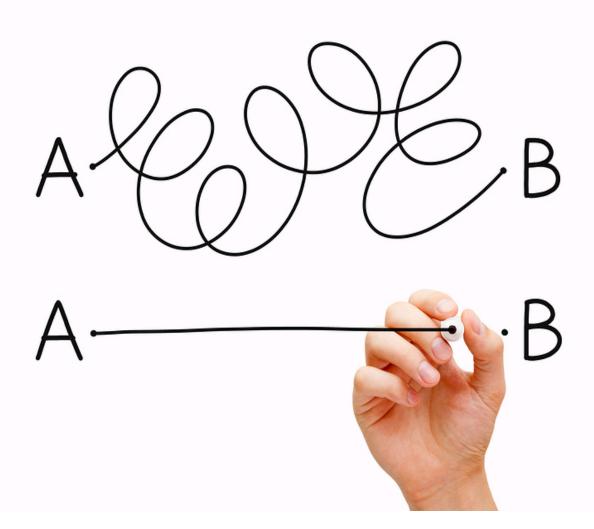
"If you're a politician on a four-year term, you need to show results right now if you want to get re-elected . . . It's not a good payoff for politicians,"

Christie Gray, Executive Director of Sistema Toronto

"Why healthy neighborhoods are the antidote to gun crime" Jason Miller Jennifer Pagliaro

What We Learned: The Aftermath

- Charity is segregated from the rest of the economic world
- Don't spend money on overhead and leadership training
- Impact first, efficiency later
- Charity is told to motivate with guilt



What's Next?

- Scale Down Operations
- Scale Down Program
- In-kind program space
- Fundraising Strategy and Case for Support
- Board of Directors
- Charitable Status
- Social Enterprise



PRINCE'S CHARITIES CANADA





Daniels Iove where you live™













Thank You!

Questions?



Tamer Ibrahim



tibrahim@laidlawfdn.org