**Music for Climate Justice Workshop Series**

**Overall Project**

Music for Climate Justice (MFCJ) has funding from TAC to provide a series of free all ages workshops in storytelling, songwriting and puppet-building in Regent Park from May to June. The workshop series will culminate in a shared meal, public performances and a parade.

Through our workshop series we hope to build community through collaborative art-making around the topic of climate justice. We also hope to inspire and empower community members with creative tools and sustainable practices to express their thoughts and feelings around this issue.

We hope the parade, performances and party will build confidence among participants, but also have a ripple effect within the community, inspiring more community members to participate in the conversation around climate justice.

**Songwriting workshops all hosted by Cassie Norton**

**with special guests**

We would love to host this series at Yea!:

Through this series, participants will be given the tools to write and perform their own songs or contribute to collaborative songwriting and performance. The themes will be guided both by the participants and by the workshop leaders. Participants will have the opportunity to explore, through a variety of writing techniques, how climate justice relates to themselves and their communities. This workshop series will improve the confidence of participants, by allowing them to write their own songs (either collaboratively or independently), as well as helping to clarify their understanding of climate justice as it relates to themselves and their community.

Special guests will include: Indigenous singer-songwriter Diem Lafortune, bandleader, singer and multi-instrumentalist Aline Morales, pianist/ singer-songwriter Chris Taeyoung Kim and a TBD special guest chosen based on participants interests and possibly recommendation. The special guest order may shift slightly depending on availability.

Workshop 1: Intro and Object Writing: Names and pronouns and check-in with participants about musical interests. Then guided object writing. Object writing is a tool which will allow participants explore their relationship to nature and climate justice themes without being asked to write about it directly. Object writing often helps people access more personal, sense-based and relatable writing.

Workshop 2: with guest leader, Indigenous Singer-songwriter Diem LaFortune. Mama D [DM LAfortune] is a Tkaronto based musician, actor and multi-disciplinary artist of Cree and Jewish ancestry.

Workshop 3: Lyrics: Lyric development, rhythm, rhyme/meter schemes, song-form and style.

Workshop 4: Rhythmic Feel: with guest percussionist/band leader Aline Morales

Workshop 5: Melody and Harmony: with guest singer/songwriter and pianist Chris Taeyoung Kim

Workshop 6: Putting it all Together: with Cassie and a special guest TBD, Chris or Aline

Workshop 7 and 8: Preparation for performance: - Depending on the nature of the songs created we may have TBD special guests to help out.

**Storytelling - all hosted by Sarah Abusarar**

If time allows we would also love to host this series at Yea! However the songwriting series is our priority.

1. Storytelling as a Tool for Social Transformation with Kalila wa Dimna fables.
2. TBD. Indigenous Stories with Special guest Isaac Murdoch or Monique Diabo.
3. Personal Stories - In this workshop participants will be led into a discussion about Climate Justice. They will be directed towards sharing personal experiences in regards to Climate Justice. Sarah will then assist the participants in shaping personal stories from their experiences.
4. Personalizing a Folktale - Sarah will lead the participants in taking their personal stories that they shaped in the previous workshop and weave it inside of a traditional tale. The Storyteller will provide a collection of traditional stories that fit the theme of caring for the earth. The participants will choose a traditional story that fits their personal story. They will learn how to personalize a traditional story by weaving in a folktale into their true story.

Finally, participants will have the opportunity to share their work through a parade and party in Moss Park in collaboration with Building Roots.