



{ together }



2017/18  
ANNUAL REPORT

The 519 is a City of Toronto agency, a registered charity and an LGBTQ2S community centre with an innovative model of Service, Space and Leadership. We are committed to the health, happiness and full participation of LGBTQ2S communities in Toronto and beyond through our programs, services, capacity-building initiatives and advocacy.

## SERVICE

We provide a wide range of direct services to members of LGBTQ2S communities, from counselling and food programs to refugee support, trans programming and seniors' support.

## SPACE

We offer a free, accommodating and non-judgmental space where individuals, organizations and non-profit groups can meet, organize and give back to the neighbourhood and communities we serve.

## LEADERSHIP

We advocate for progress by sharing the knowledge and insights we gather on the ground through consulting and workshop services, research and public-engagement campaigns.





GRIEVE. HEAL. RISE. RESIST. LOVE

# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



It has been a year of tremendous loss for our communities. The higher incidence of violence, persistent systemic barriers, and shifting political climate are impacting our communities. We know that the changing climate will put the most marginalized and vulnerable members of our communities at even greater risk.

In such times of turmoil, community-focused organizations become all the more important – to represent communities' voices, advocate for human rights on a systemic level, and continue to fill gaps in service provision.

Our service model has continued to expand this past year as the needs of our communities intensify. We are even more focused on strengthening our capacity to respond to emerging needs – now and in future – in our catchment area and beyond.

Our clients and community program participants come to The 519 from neighbourhoods across the city. We will continue to seek opportunities to replicate our success as an accessible community centre in partnership with our communities. The Moss Park Revitalization Project is at the forefront of those efforts. We recognize that we must ensure that our space, programs and services are accessible to all, especially those who face barriers to service. It is essential that we advance equity across our community intersections, and our work with racialized and Indigenous LGBTQ2S communities is central to that commitment. Over the past year, in response to the increased violence and neighbourhood safety issues, we have also been focusing on expanding our anti-violence initiatives and implementing an approach integrated across our work. We will continue to advance this essential work in the coming years.

In order to actualize our vision, we have been expanding our organizational capacity. Many new team members joined us this year, both on our leadership team and staff teams. We galvanized partnerships with other community organizations, as this not only expands our capacity but also helps us to collectively support the community in a more cohesive manner.

And you have come together with us to change lives. We are so thankful to our staff, donors, funders, volunteers and partners. You enable us to respond to critical and urgent needs that require both immediate on-ground and long-term systemic interventions. Through your support, we will continue to grow and work towards meaningful and sustainable change for the people we serve.

Maura Lawless,  
Executive Director

David Morris,  
Board Chair

# PUTTING IN PERSPECTIVE

**VIOLENCE:** LGBTQ2S people are at higher risk of experiencing violence and abuse.

**13%**

of all police-reported hate crimes in 2016 targeted sexual orientation<sup>1</sup>

**71%**

of hate crimes targeting sexual orientation were violent crimes<sup>1</sup>

**67%**

of hate crimes are not reported (estimated)<sup>2</sup>

**20%**

of trans people in Ontario report experiencing physical or sexual assault<sup>3</sup>

**ACCESS:** LGBTQ2S people experience barriers in accessing mainstream services, including settlement, health, safety and housing, due to homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism.

**98%**

of trans people report experiencing transphobia<sup>4</sup>



**24%**

of trans people in Ontario report having been harassed by police<sup>4</sup>



**21%**

of trans people in Ontario report avoiding emergency rooms due to expected discrimination<sup>4</sup>

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Factors that contribute to higher rates of mental health issues in the community include social isolation, violence, stigma and marginalization.



**77%**

of trans people across Ontario have seriously considered suicide<sup>5</sup>



**45%**

of trans people across Ontario have attempted suicide<sup>6</sup>



**50%**

of older trans adults experience depression<sup>7</sup>



**30%**

of LGB older adults experience depression<sup>7</sup>



**LGBTQ2S YOUTH ARE 14 TIMES**

more at risk of suicide than straight cisgender youth<sup>8</sup>



**LGBTQ2S**

people who experience family rejection as adolescents report high rates of depression, drug use, unprotected sex and attempted suicide<sup>9</sup>

**HOUSING:** The shelter system is often a dangerous place for LGBTQ2S people due to widespread discrimination.

**40%**

of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ2S<sup>5</sup>



**GLOBAL:** The world continues to be an unsafe space for LGBTQ communities.



**72 STATES**

consider same-sex relationships a criminal offence<sup>12</sup>



**19 STATES**

in North Africa and the Middle East have "morality" laws or "promotion" laws that actively target public promotion or expression of same-sex and trans realities<sup>12</sup>



**POVERTY:** LGBTQ2S people are at a higher risk of poverty. They may also be Indigenous people, people with disabilities, seniors, racialized people, newcomers, refugees, single parents, and members of other communities that are at risk for poverty, magnifying their precarity.



**LGBTQ2S**

people are more likely to live in poverty than their straight cisgender counterparts<sup>10</sup>

**50%** of trans people in Ontario live on less than **\$15,000/YEAR**<sup>11</sup>



<sup>1</sup> StatsCan <sup>2</sup> 2017 General Social Survey on Victimization <sup>3</sup> Trans PULSE E-bulletin 2010 <sup>4</sup> Ayden Scheim, Greta Bauer, Jake Pyne, "Avoidance of Public Spaces by Trans Ontarians: The Impact of Transphobia on Daily Life" (2014) Tran PULSE <sup>5</sup> Homeless Hub <sup>6</sup> Trans PULSE study (2010) - Health Needs of Trans People Across Ontario <sup>7</sup> Still Here Still Queer - Resource by The 519 (2017) <sup>8</sup> RHO Mental Health Factsheet 2010 <sup>9</sup> RHO LGBTQ Mental Health Factsheet 2012 <sup>10</sup> Igbohealth.ca <sup>11</sup> RHO LGBTQ Mental Health Factsheet 2012 <sup>12</sup> ILGA, State-Sponsored Homophobia - MAY 2017

# OUR WORK IN 2017/18

## SERVICE

### LGBTQ Refugee Settlement:

**1,507**

refugee claimants  
received one-on-one  
settlement support<sup>13</sup>



**8,902**

visits by LGBTQ refugee  
claimants to settlement-  
related workshops &  
group sessions<sup>13</sup>

### LGBTQ Newcomer Settlement:

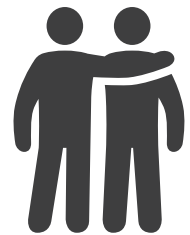
**440**

participants  
received  
one-on-one  
support<sup>13</sup>

### Older LGBTQ2S Program:

**1,556**

total engagements



### Trauma-informed Counselling:

**19** volunteer  
counsellors  
completed



hours, providing  
free counselling  
to community  
members

➔ **100+ SESSIONS** for LGBTQ newcomers

➔ **50+** people supported through drop-in counselling during  
Sunday Drop-in & Meal Trans food programs (in 3 months)

### EarlyON Child & Family Drop-in Program:

**12,987**

visits by parents  
and children



### Anti-Violence Initiatives:

**57**

participants in self-defence  
workshops (in 2018)

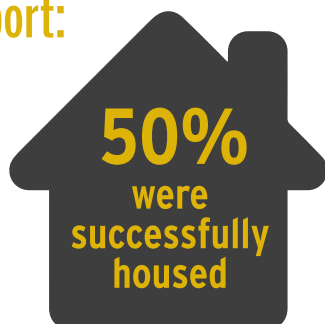
### Youth Housing Support:

**215**

people accessed our  
housing services



**17%**  
increase from  
last year



**50%**  
were  
successfully  
housed



**TRANS PEOPLE OF  
COLOUR PROJECT**



**MOSS PARK REVITALIZATION  
PROJECT & COMMUNITY  
ACTIVATIONS**

<sup>13</sup> May 2017 – June 2018



## Youth Engagement Programs:



**700 YOUTH** reached by our student newcomer access program



**FUEL, LGBTQ2S YOUTH SPORTS**



**IGNITE, TRANS YOUTH SPORTS**



**ANIMAZING ANIMATION CAMP**



**TRANS YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM [TYMP]**



**KIDS AND YOUTH ACTION AND ARTS PROGRAM**

## Food Programs:

**FABARNAK**



**free meals to programs**

## Food Service:

**FABARNAK** Social Enterprise Community Café

**12%**  
revenue  
increase in 2017\*



\* All profits are donated to The 519 to serve program participants

## SPACE

➔ **537,291** annual visits to The 519

➔ **93,062** visits to programs led by The 519

➔ **215** community-led groups hosted

➔ **4,012** community meetings held



**60,375**

information and referral  
requests at front desk

## LEADERSHIP

### Education & Training:



**11,736** people received  
inclusion training in 2017

### Advocacy:

- » **PUBLIC-ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGNS**
- » **MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY**
- » **REPRESENTATION ON 100+ PARTNERSHIP TABLES**
- » **COMMEMORATIVE COMMUNITY EVENTS**

## LGBTQ Refugee Support



**Among Friends**, our LGBTQ Refugee Support program, is faced with ever-increasing demand. Many LGBTQ refugees arrive in Canada and bring with them skills, talent and the will to live a life of dignity. But their resettlement process is extremely challenging. A growing backlog of pending claims; difficulties proving one's sexual orientation/gender identity; and systemic homophobia, transphobia and biphobia in the shelter and settlement services system compound the barriers any refugee or newcomer would face in a new country. Amidst such tough ground realities, funding for LGBTQ-focused settlement services and for building LGBTQ competency in existing systems remains limited.

The 519 serves all LGBTQ refugee claimants who walk through our doors. Our services include not only orientation and support with claims but also trauma-informed counselling, referrals, housing support and volunteering opportunities. We have been able to continuously expand our program with the increasing need and remain committed to serving and advocating for the rights of LGBTQ refugee claimants in Canada.

### Highlights 2017/18:

- » 1,507 refugee claimants were provided one-on-one settlement support – **13% higher than the comparable period last year.**
- » 8,902 visits were made by LGBTQ refugee claimants to settlement-related workshops and group sessions, **an increase of 46% from the comparable period last year.**
- » Rainbow Railroad negotiated safe travel for 57 government-assisted refugees from Chechnya in 2017 and made a commitment to support those arriving in Canada. The 519 entered into a partnership with Rainbow Railroad to provide dedicated settlement support to the 34 LGBTQ refugees in Toronto. **Since September 2017, there have been more than 720 program engagements.**





# BEAUTY AMIDST PAIN

**In 2017, a group of government-assisted LGBTQ refugees arrived in Canada, fleeing persecution in Chechnya. They had endured unspeakable atrocities. Russell<sup>14</sup> was one of them.**

He was incarcerated. He was tortured. He was almost killed. Because he was a gay man in Chechnya. It was very hard for Russell to talk about that time. All he wants to do now is focus on rebuilding his life.

The 519 mobilized quickly when the refugees arrived last year. A Russian-speaking LGBTQ refugee program coordinator has been working with them since to coordinate services that include language assistance, housing support, trauma-informed counselling, and engagement in arts and recreation activities. Russell's favourite part of the program is the field trips.

**“The 519 provided us a solid start in Canada, a basis on which we have been able to start rebuilding our lives.”**

With support from our program, Russell has secured housing and employment in the neighbourhood. A sales associate before, he has always had a passion for cooking that he could never pursue. In his country of origin cooking was considered ‘effeminate’ and therefore unacceptable for men. In Toronto, he is working as an assistant cook at a restaurant in the Village and is excited about pursuing his professional dreams.

<sup>14</sup> Pseudonym used for privacy at the request of the participant.



## A HEART OF GOLD

**He came to Canada as a student to learn English. He stayed in Canada as an LGBTQ refugee to live a life free of discrimination.**

Luis couldn't speak a single word of English when he left Mexico City and arrived in Toronto as a student in 2016. It was terrifying for him to not be able to communicate his thoughts.

Struggling in his studies, he decided to take action and find a space where he could practise speaking the new language.

An online search for newcomer services took him to The 519's website.

**"I had no idea what The 519 was until I arrived here. I realized right away that it was for me. It was me."**

He didn't have a clear plan for his future. But he had his instincts to guide him. He joined **Among Friends**, The 519's

program for LGBTQ refugee claimants, to find out about his options. He also started volunteering at The 519.

An accounting wizard, Luis knew he wanted more freedom and opportunities in life. But he didn't want to risk never seeing his family again. He had to make a choice – to go back and live a life of invisibility, harassment and bullying or to stay and lose his loved ones.

He decided to come out to his family and express his fears of never being able to see

them if he filed his refugee claim. It was a big day for Luis when his family gave him love and courage. He finally filed his claim.

Now Luis is focused on actively improving his English language skills as he waits for his hearing. He continues to volunteer at The 519 and participates in various programs, including **Sew What?** and yoga.

Now he has a plan – to be a social worker in Toronto and give back to the community that embraced him.



Luis sporting the shirt he stitched from scratch in Sew What?, a sewing program at The 519





Older LGBTQ2S Pride Picnic, 2018

## Older LGBTQ2S Drop-in Program

The 519 has supported the needs of LGBTQ2S seniors throughout our 40-year history. Our drop-in program offers space for the seniors' group to meet every week, socialize and participate in various activities. Direct service needs are supported through participant engagement and relevant referrals.

### Highlights 2017/18:

- » **880 visits were made to the program in one year.**
- » The program's capacity was expanded by increasing our staff team.
- » New initiatives were introduced and existing work was expanded during the year, including:
  - **Pals Connect**, a new initiative, is a friendly visitors' program for older LGBTQ2S to reduce social isolation and promote intergenerational interaction. **211 engagements with older LGBTQ2S folks.**
  - **Friendly Phone Program** is designed to check in on our older adult community members to provide social engagement opportunities. **375 phone engagements.**
  - **Food Bag Program** is a new initiative to improve the health and well-being of participants and address food insecurity. Participants have the opportunity to receive a bag of fresh fruit, vegetables and a variety of other seasonal options.
  - **Doing It For Ourselves** was a series of intergenerational skill-share workshops launched in 2017 in partnership with the Senior Pride Network and Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. **90 engagements with seniors directly benefiting through participation as attendees, volunteers and guest facilitators.**



# A LIFETIME OF REFLECTION

**Carol came out to her parents when she was 42 years old. Now 75, she continues to seek safe spaces where she can be herself without fear of exclusion.**

She remembers when she took early retirement from her work in BC and moved to New Brunswick to look after her ailing parents. After her parents passed away, she started receiving anonymous notes and phone calls with the message “do not flaunt your lifestyle here.” She moved cities again. And yet again – in search of a place where prejudice was not so palpable. She arrived in Toronto one and a half years ago.

Carol did not know anyone in Toronto. Social life with her peer age-group felt challenging as well. She feels that if she were to come out in her other circles, she would be excluded. She learned about The 519 **Older LGBTQ2S group** six months ago, and even though it is a long commute

on TTC, she decided to join the weekly program.

**“I can be myself here. I wish people would realize how hard it is for people my age, especially if they identify as LGBTQ2S.”**

Despite her experience of unsafe spaces and relationships, Carol is hopeful about the future. She feels that as a society we have come a long way. She is very proud of the young people who see gender as a fluid concept. She enjoys intergenerational interactions and wants to encourage young folks to engage with older people more often.

## EarlyON Child and Family Centre

Our EarlyON Child and Family Centre continues to serve the neighbourhood and LGBTQ2S communities – with a daily drop-in program, weekly evening drop-in, monthly Queer and Trans Family Events, community-led initiatives, resources and referrals for families, and educational sessions for caregivers.

In addition to regular programming this year, EarlyON stepped in to support Among Friends, our refugee program. Based on feedback from participants, we recognized the need for child-minding services to make the program more accessible for refugee parents and caregivers. EarlyON mobilized swiftly and now offers child-minding services for Among Friends participants' infants, toddlers and children during program days.





## Youth Engagement Programs

**Animazing** is an exciting one-month intensive animation camp for young artists aged 13 to 23, first launched in 2016 in collaboration with the Toronto Animated Image Society. Participants create animated films and participate in group discussions with LGBTQ2S youth mentors. At the end of the program, each participant receives an artist fee for their involvement in the project, and the films are presented to the public at a gala event hosted by participants and sponsored by The 519.

**Fuel and Ignite**, our new programs for LGBTQ2S and trans youth respectively, offer sports and recreation programming for youth ages 16 to 29.



Fuel participants playing bubble soccer at U of T, Trinity Fields



**Trans Youth Mentorship Program (TYMP)** has grown and adapted since its launch in 2016 to meet the needs of the participants. While maintaining the original concept of providing employment training and education to trans youth, the program, now in its third cycle, offers more focus on one-on-one support with planning and goal-setting, a communal versus formal format of mentoring, and many opportunities for community engagement.

#### **Program-led events 2017/18:**

- » **Trans Community Clothing Exchange** is organized twice a year and offers free clothes to those in need.
- » **Trans Body and Spirit Symposium** brought together speakers on topics related to our physical and spiritual health.
- » **Transphilia Symposium** focused on trans love and relationships.
- » TYMP mentees participated and provided leadership in the **Trans Job Fair**, organized by Trans Workforce.
- » **Trans Film Fest** brought together different generations of trans filmmakers and artists, who screened their documentaries, video stories, music videos and short films to an enthusiastic audience. The film fest also included interactive panel discussions with the filmmakers and artists. **More than 125 people attended the 2018 Trans Film Fest.**





“It can be very hard for newcomer youth to make friends, especially if you are a reserved person. The program gives me space to take leadership roles, engage in lots of fun sporting activities, and best of all meet new people who can relate to my experiences. I don’t feel awkward as a newcomer in that group. Also, the food is always great!”

— Hydrick, Student Newcomer Access program participant and volunteer

**Student Newcomer Access**, a capacity-building program for newcomer youth in schools, supports youth dealing with systemic challenges, social isolation, the stress of immigration, and challenges associated with long-term family separation and reunification. We work with youth in the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board through one-on-one support and group programming. We also work closely with settlement workers in schools and with partner community agencies. Since 2012 we have worked in more than 25 schools across the Greater Toronto Area and have a special focus in working across the Neighbourhood Investment Areas.

**This program works with over 700 youth each year.**





# ANIMATING THEIR STORY

**Teddy felt isolated after coming out. All that changed when they found community and explored opportunities for their artistic expression.**

For Teddy, school was difficult, especially after coming out as a trans-identified person. Their intersecting racial identity made it harder for them to find and define affirming community connections.

Through their struggle, they made a critical decision to reach out to community groups, where they felt they might find supportive spaces to claim. That is when they joined the **Trans Youth Mentorship Program (TYMP)** at The 519. Through the program, they participated in planning events like the Trans Film Fest.

This year, Teddy has joined **Animazing**, a stop-motion animation camp at The 519. This program has offered them an

opportunity to hone their skills as an illustrator and to find powerful ways to express their emotions and ideas.

**“I want to utilize this medium to express the challenges I am going through as a young trans-identified person – experiences that other queer and trans youth can relate to.”**

Teddy’s experiences with the community makes them value how small acts can have a lasting positive impact on someone’s life. They want to be there for other youth who are struggling to find safe spaces where they could be themselves.

## Trans People of Colour Project (TPOC)

The Trans People of Colour (TPOC) Project was launched in fall 2017 as an evolution of our Trans Sex Worker Empowerment (TSWEP) project, which ended in 2016 following the conclusion of the funding agreement. The learnings from TSWEP were integrated into this newer version, which focuses on providing paid opportunities for trans people of colour to become peer leaders, community mobilizers and training facilitators.



TPOC program participant and peer leader in training





# A WOMAN OF COLOUR

**Evana Ortigoza comes in every Tuesday to participate in the Trans People of Colour (TPOC) project at The 519 as a peer leader. But her relationship with us spans two decades.**

Evana was a sex worker and precariously homeless 20 years ago. With no access to services or shelter as a young trans woman of colour, she experienced a lot of violence, harassment and loss on the streets. She remembers coming to The 519 to hang out. She also met her partner, now husband, at the time. He was homeless as well.

Her community and partner supported her through this time, and Evana was able to educate herself more and more about the stigma and barriers HIV positive women face. Since then, she has dedicated her life to advocating for the cause. She is currently on the steering committee, Circle of Care, at PWA. She is also very active in the Latinx communities and is engaged with Trans PULSE as a community researcher.

Now, as part of the **Trans People of Colour** project, she mentors other trans women of colour. They call her Mama and get inspiration from her life, her confidence and positive energy.

**“Trans people of colour are extremely marginalized. People don’t realize the struggle we go through every single day. It is important for me to say loudly and proudly that I am a woman; I am a woman of colour – and I am here!”**

With the support of staff and community, she was able to get rehabilitation for her chronic drug use. She decided to become involved in community work and received relevant training at The 519.

**“I started coming here every day – to learn and observe and adapt. I knew I needed to change or I would die – like so many of my friends.”**

Evana got involved with **Trans Access**, a trans awareness training program for service providers. She also started working for the **Meal Trans** program at The 519.

**“Just when my life was turning around, I found out that I was HIV positive. It felt like my dreams shattered once again.”**

Evana still comes to Meal Trans every Monday and never misses it. She doesn’t come for the food anymore. She comes for her community.



Evana featured in The 519's Trans Inclusion campaign, 2006

## Moss Park Activations

Our work on Moss Park made progress through the year as we worked with the City and our philanthropic partner on the feasibility study and redesign based on community input. We are gearing up to announce the next phase of development in 2019.

Meanwhile, we actively maintained our relationship with the community, and our focus on neighbourhood development and local economies remained a priority. We launched two new skill-building workshops engaging community and community partners from the Moss Park neighbourhood:

**Sew What?** is a free sewing program in which participants learn to make tote bags, skirts, shirts and bow ties, and participate in craft markets as a collective enterprise. **In 2017, 90+ community members participated in Sew What?**

**Hair Me Now** is our barbershop workshop, launched in partnership with ONYX Barbers. Participants learn basic hair-grooming and barbering skills and hone their new skills by cutting community members' hair for free. **25 people were given free haircuts during the holiday season.**

**Other Moss Park activations during the year:**

**Back to School Bash** was hosted for the second time in 2017, in partnership with John Innes Community Centre, and engaged youth and families through games, food and music. **300+ youth and families were reached and were provided backpacks with back-to-school supplies.**

**Math Mates**, a free five-week math program, was held at the John Innes Community Centre in 2017 and offered one-on-one math homework assistance and interactive learning sessions for youth. **Fifteen youth, working with five volunteer tutors from U of T and Ryerson University, went through the Math Mates program.**





# A LABOUR OF LOVE

**A newcomer and an LGBTQ refugee claimant, Mehwish was in search of a chosen family. She found it at The 519.**

When Mehwish is not attending our **Among Friends** refugee program, she is volunteering at one of our events or learning a new skill. She recently participated in **Hair Me Now**, our barbershop skill-building workshop, and plans to join the upcoming session of **Sew What?**, our sewing program.

**“Hair Me Now was such a great space for me to learn a new skill. I have already given free haircuts to a few people, so I am able to pay it forward.”**

to Malaysia for the next seven years. The only person in her family who knew that Mehwish identified as queer was her mother, her biggest champion. After losing her mother last year, she felt she had lost everything – except her desire to live her life openly as a queer person.

Her biggest fear about moving to Canada was not knowing anyone. But in less than a year, she has found friends and a community and is looking forward to finding work in her profession – information technology. She also wants to use her IT skills to support community organizations – like The 519 – which serve LGBTQ2S communities.

Mehwish awaits her hearing and is excited about the journey ahead.

Mehwish left Pakistan, her country of origin, when she was only 19 and moved



# STANDING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

## Community Events



Community Vigil 2018 (Photo by 416Kings)

The 519 organized a vigil in partnership with other LGBTQ2S community organizations in February 2018 to offer a safe space for community members to come together and grieve the LGBTQ2S lives lost to recent incidents of targeted violence.

The vigil was attended by many community members – to grieve, heal, rise, resist and share their love. We offered a healing space for creative expression and commemorated the lives lost.

### Other community events organized include:

1. Trans Day of Remembrance, 2017
2. AIDS Vigil 2018 (Photo by 416Kings)
3. U Are We – International Women's Day event, 2018
4. Shades of Our Sisters – International Women's Day exhibition, 2018
5. Remembering Orlando – June 12, 2018



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

## Community Partnerships

To expand our reach and depth of programming, The 519 has focused on developing strong new partnerships over the last few years. These include partnerships with organizations, individuals and groups facilitating art, health, wellness, performance and self-defence programs, particularly those focused on racialized community members.

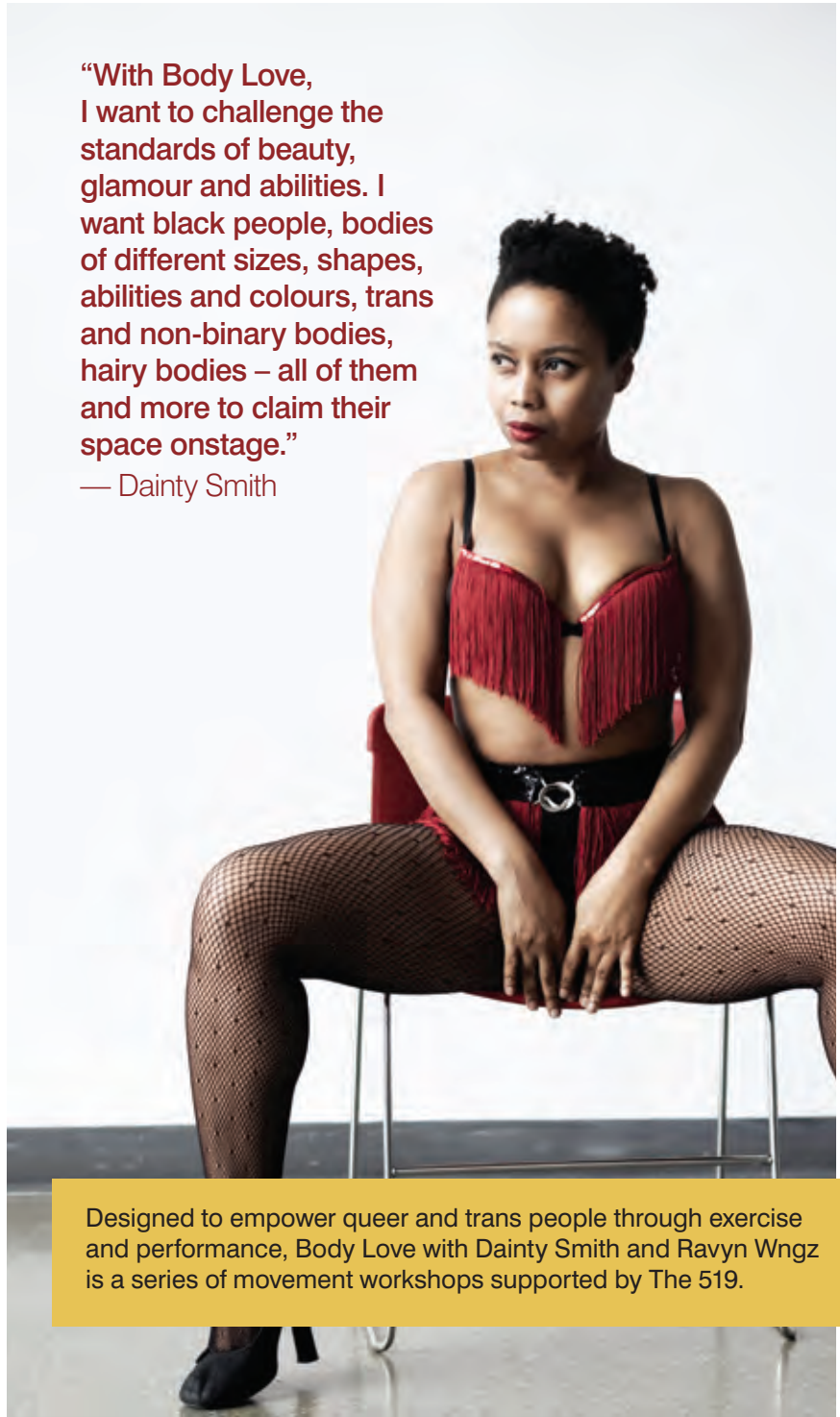


### NU\_FORuMS:

Mikiki, a queer video and performance artist, facilitated a series of clay tile-making workshops in collaboration with the Titiesg Wîcinîmintôwak // Bluejays Dancing Together Collective for local two-spirit artists at The 519. The finished results were exhibited at the Gardiner Museum. (Photo by Gardiner Museum)

“With Body Love, I want to challenge the standards of beauty, glamour and abilities. I want black people, bodies of different sizes, shapes, abilities and colours, trans and non-binary bodies, hairy bodies – all of them and more to claim their space onstage.”

— Dainty Smith



Designed to empower queer and trans people through exercise and performance, Body Love with Dainty Smith and Ravyn Wngz is a series of movement workshops supported by The 519.



# WORKING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

## Education and Training

Our Education and Training team focused on fostering long-term relationships with client organizations in various sectors – delivering on average more inclusion workshops per organization than last year. Internally, the team continues to support various programs by creating resources and sharing insights to advocate for our communities on a systemic level. **In 2017, 300 inclusion training workshops were delivered to 11,736 people at 116 organizations.**



## Resource Development

**Media Reference Guide**, second edition, was launched by our Education and Training team in partnership with Rainbow Health Ontario. The resource provides a comprehensive guideline for media for sharing stories about trans and gender-diverse people in an accurate and respectful way.

**Still Here, Still Queer** is a resource for fostering affirming spaces and services for LGBTQ2S older adults. The publication was developed by The 519 in collaboration with and with contributions from the Senior Pride Network, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and True Davidson Acres long-term care home.





## Campaign: We Have Your Back

In response to the repeal of the modernized sexual health education curriculum in Ontario, The 519 launched the **We Have Your Back** campaign to organize and advocate against the repeal. As part of this campaign, we are working with parents, organizations and activists to amplify our advocacy efforts.

The campaign initiatives include press engagement, supporting youth-led advocacy initiatives, and circulating a petition against the repeal. In a short time, we have partnered with more than **100** organizations, and through the campaign website, **4,000** letters have been sent to MPPs by community members from all across the province.

## Trans Engagement Project (TEP)

Trans Engagement Project [TEP] was initiated in 2017/18 to undertake a comprehensive environmental scan to identify leading practice for trans communities at the regional, national and international levels. The project scope includes consulting with trans community members who access our programs and services and fostering new connections and partnerships to advance our work. The project aims to centre trans experiences in informing and improving service delivery for trans communities in Toronto and beyond and to advance our strategic objective of continuing to provide responsive, accountable and sustainable program delivery at The 519.

## The Federal Apology Project

Following the Prime Minister's apology to LGBTQ2S communities for the treatment of LGBTQ2S public servants during the 1960s, The 519 received a grant from the federal government for a project to support LGBTQ2S-focused services. We disseminated six micro-grants to LGBTQ2S-focused organizations in Guelph, Brantford, Sioux Lookout and Iqaluit. We also created resources that encourage collective responses to crisis and continued our work on educational issues pertaining to LGBTQ2S human rights. This project was a wonderful opportunity to support and better understand the amazing work of LGBTQ2S-focused initiatives across Ontario and Nunavut.

# LOOKING AHEAD

## DEFINING OUR FUTURE



### Neighbourhood Development

In partnership with the City of Toronto and our private philanthropic partner, we look forward to completing the Moss Park redevelopment feasibility study – ensuring meaningful community participation and engagement through the process.



### Anti-Racism and Equity Framework

We will be finalizing and implementing our anti-racism and equity framework across our work.

## RESPONDING TO NEED AND TRANSFORMING LIVES



### Anti-Violence Initiatives

We will be focused on expanding our anti-violence work to respond to community safety issues and strengthen our interventions across our programs and services.



### Leading Practice

We will be conducting relevant consultation and review processes to improve and enhance leading practice in service delivery. Developing and delivering on the Trans Engagement Project will be a key deliverable under this priority.

## PARTNERSHIP, RELATIONSHIPS AND SOCIAL CHANGE



### Strategic Partnerships

We will continue to focus our work in partnership with relevant partners, influencers and key stakeholders to identify and address systemic issues impacting LGBTQ2S / marginalized communities – particularly refugees, seniors and youth.



### Advancing the Impact of Public Service

We must position our leadership to respond to any challenge to or erosion of LGBTQ2S rights, and act bravely and appropriately in our role as a City agency and as public servants.

## SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE, INVESTMENT AND IMPACT



### Sustainable Resourcing

We will continue to seek ways to expand our financial and human capacity to respond to emerging needs of the LGBTQ2S communities for years to come.



### Continuous Improvement

We are working to further improve our internal systems and organizational practices to effectively support our community programs and services.

# GARNERING SUPPORT

For every **\$1** of City funding in 2017, we raised **\$4.42** through philanthropy and fundraising.

OCTOBER 2017



The 519 Annual Gala:  
**\$413,000 raised**

We are grateful to our honorary patron, Salah Bachir, for hosting one of our biggest fundraising events of the year

MARCH 2018

Firefly Pub 2018:  
**\$25,243 raised**

We are grateful to our members, donors and sponsors for their support and participation.



JUNE 2018



Green Space Festival:  
**\$450,000+ raised**

We are grateful to all our supporters for participating in our fundraising events and partying for a cause.

JAN–DEC 2017

Donations:  
**Over \$1.3 million**

We are grateful to all our donors who are committed to supporting the communities.



2017/2018



**1,162 volunteers**  
**donated 21,395 hours**

We are grateful to our volunteers who donate their time, skills and energy to The 519.

Gala 2017 photo by George Pimentel  
Green Space Festival 2018 and Donations photos by Aydin Matlabi



# THANKING OUR SUPPORTERS

Our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, funders and sponsors who supported our work through their generous gifts and involvement. You have helped us serve thousands of community members.

## Major Funding Partners



Ontario Canada



United Way  
Greater Toronto

## Organizations and Foundations

### Luminaries (\$50,000+)

BMO Financial Group  
The Counselling Foundation Of  
Canada  
Delta Airlines  
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable  
Foundation  
Molson-Coors Canada  
TD Bank Group

### Trendsetters (\$25,000–\$49,999)

Brown-Forman Canada  
Fido  
La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso  
Labatt Brewing Company  
Mantella Corporation  
Rogers Communications  
Scotiabank  
Slaight Family Foundation

### Champions (\$10,000–\$24,999)

Ace Hill  
Bell Canada  
CIBC  
Cineplex Media  
RBC Financial Group  
Tangerine Bank  
Taxi Canada

### Leaders (\$1,000–\$9,999)

AA - The Church Street  
Group  
Aqueduct Foundation  
Aragon (Wellesley)  
Dev (Ont) Corp  
Cannabis Culture  
Conam Charitable  
Foundation

DGS Events  
Downtown Subaru  
East York East Toronto  
Family Resources  
EQUITAS  
The Greey-Lennox  
Charitable Foundation  
Legacy Private Trust

NOW Communications Inc.  
Pride and Remembrance  
Run Foundation  
R&M Lang Foundation  
Redberry  
The Sabourin Family  
Foundation

Dawn Tattle Family  
Foundation  
The Ultimate Software  
Group Of Canada, Inc.



Lipstick Jungle, Green Space Festival 2018 (Photo by Aydin Matlabi)



Firefly, 2018

## Individual Donors

### Honorary Patron

Salah Bachir

### Visionary Circle (\$25,000+)

Anonymous

### Patrons' Circle (\$10,000–\$24,999)

Anonymous

Kate Alexander Daniels & David Daniels

The Honourable Bill Graham

Matthew Logue

Craig Malloy

Andy & Valerie Pringle

### Leadership Council (\$1,000–\$9,999)

Lyndsey Alves

Sasan Ansari

Jacqueline Baldwin

Ruby Bantock

Milos Barutciski

Linda Booker

Jonathon Borland

Jameson Bouffard

Andrew Braithwaite

Darren Cooney

& Robert Brien

Michael Britton

David Bronskill

Dean Carlson

Matthew Cutler

& Dr. Avery Miller

Pascal Dessureault

Andrew Dobson

Shawn Elliott

Marty Gillespie

& Ali Khan

Green Leaf Society

John Herald

Andrew Horberry

Wayne Horchover

Robert Howe

Chester C. Kamski

Michael Kicis

Blair Kissack & Chris Holm

David Knox

Maura Lawless

Geoffrey Lawrence

Jamie Lefkovics

Tracey Mann

Florence Matthews

Chris McGrath

Rick Mercer

Rod Miller

Michael Moores

Drew Morier

Curtis Murphy

Marc Narayansingh

Paul Noble

Perry Orestes

Matthew Paananen

David Palumbo

Darryl Perry

Robert Archer

& Richard Pond

Ryan Resch

Louis Roberge

Nick & Sheila Marks

Bradley Salavich

Kristen Schaffrath

Esteban & Brad Schmale

Daryl Stilson

Louis-Michel Taillefer

Peter Taylor

Timothy Thompson

& Matthew Campbell

Rudy Ticzon

& Randy Dawson

Mike Twamley

Jim Vibert

Alan Witz

**Benefactors (\$500–\$999)**

Travis Allan	Daniel Fusca	Grant LoPatriello	Ron Puccini
Donald Altman	Biagio Galle	Victoria Loucks	Tegan & Sara Quin
& Judy Skinner	Denis Galliera	Peter Lowes	Sanford Riley
Drew Baillie	Paul Gamble	Kevin Lund	Frank Robbins
Dan Bain & Cameron	Vaiki Taul	Richard Lyle	James John Robertson
Muirhead	Breanne & Steven Gimza	Jamie MacDonald	Alex Rocha
Ernesto Barahona	Richard Glaze	Rodney MacDonald	Casey Roswell
John Bardswich	Michael Godfrey	Manny Machado	Chad Rowe
Dr. Chris Bart	Daniel Green	Preston MacNeil	Patrick Samson Doel
Robert Bartlett	Robert Green	Aadil Mangalji	Erik Schannen
Andrea Beechey	Steve Green	Stephen McGuinness	Greg Schiltroth
Paul Bent	David Grism	John McNain	Christopher Schmid
Brad Berg	Neil Guthrie	Patrick McNeill	Lee Mark Schofield
Rodney Beronilla	Brian Hanes	& Raymond Vong	Jim Scott
Chrissy Bozik	John Hart	Paola Merino	Gord Shearn
Nathan Brighty	Mark Hendricks	Marc Michell	Lara Shewchuk
Natasha Brijcoomar	Mike Henry	Rodney Miller	Stephen Smith
Patricia Bronskill	Jonathan Hicks	Toby Milton	Elizabeth So
Jason Brunetta	Marc Hilliker	Adrian Mitchell	Jonathan Steels
Stuart Bustard	Alex Hu	& Bruce Yungblut	Kyle Stevens
Paul Butler	Alex Irwin	Henning Moerke	Tim Stewart
Sarah Chapman	Oliver Jaakkola	Kelly Moffatt	Jeff Stone
John Clifford	Darrell Jensen	Jeffrey Moss	Stephan Tang
Robert Cripps	Timothy Josephson	William Moyer	Brian Terry
Angelo Cruz	Tim Josephson	John Muscat	David Tersigni
Jamie Cunningham	Philip Juneke	Jessica Nagy	Les Tomlin
Tony D'Addario	Sam Katz	Adriana Nedelcu	John Tovey
Tom Dara	Sherman Ki	Bart Nickerson	Todd van der Heyden
Peter DeVries	Ryan King	Dustin Nicolarsen	Nicholas Vandal
Mark Dilworth	Jordan Knowles	John Nightingale	Joe Walton
Philip Doiron	Brent Knowles	Christopher Novak	Scott Ward
Raymundo Dumler	Dario Kosarac	Dan O'Brien	Tyler Welwood
Eva Dusome	Robert Lachance	Wayne Officer	Alfred Whitehead
Daniel Faria	Peter Lam	Will Oldan	Brian Wilding
Mark Fellion	Trung Lam	Leonardo Oliveira	& Brian McKeen
Rob Ferris	Aaron Lazarus	Robert Orr	Michael Wilson
John Filice	Duane Ledgister	James Owen	Kiley Woodland
Kevin Flewwelling	Darren Lee	Sebastien Parisien-Roy	Chin Soon Yeo
David Flynn	Lorraine Legault	Joseph Patrick	Evan Young
Richard Fournier	Ernestina Leitao	Andrew Paul	
Dave Fraser	Luc Lemyre	Richard Pauloski	
Helena Frecker	Michael Loader	Len Pendergast	
Michael Fulcher	Mary & Michael Logue	Brian Provini & Ron Harris	

**Advocates (\$250–\$499)**

Anonymous	Michael Ferguson	Luc Levasseur	Ken Popert
Doug Arcand	Jason Fernandes	Tom Lewis	Ludovic Procope
& Alnoor Karmali	Karen Fulcher	Adam Martel	Paul Prosterman
Samuel Archer	Sandra Gandola	Michael Masliwec	Sam Robinson
Duncan Armstrong	& Ernest Abugov	Mark McFadden	Vera Santillana
Mike Bickerton	Patrick Gervais	Cameron McLean	Jurgen Schrod
Nancy Bamm	Wesley Gordon	Anthony Merante	Judith Skinner
John William Brannigan	Eduard Gukov	Donald Middleton	Lee Sneddon
Ross Burnett	Brian Hockey	& Clayton Wilson	& Kris Fortomaris
Felipe Caputo	Thomas Hopson	Albert Mui	David Steinberg
Jeffrey Clarkson Brown	Richard Hynes	Susan Munn	Richard Sutton
Brian Cooper	Peter Intini	Patrick Pearse Murray	Sari and Harvey Toll
Kevin Cormier	Christopher Jette	Jordan O'Reilly	Jennifer Vella
Bert Crandall	Aurelie Kamayah	Shannon O'Reilly	Michelle Walker
Gerald Crowell	Wayne Kerrick	Anthony Partipilo	Will Webb
Mary Desrocher	Brandon Kerstens	Karl Pelowich	David Whitney
Carolyn Di Maria	Peter Kiatipis	Andrey Poluchankin	
Stephen Dunn	Johanna Kozak	Kerry Pond	
Michael Farago	Tim Leonard	Nevzat Miftari	



## Supporters (\$20–\$249)

Thanks to the **1,293** supporters who collectively donated **\$82,256** to help us build an inclusive world. See the complete donor list at [The519.org/support-the-519/donate](http://The519.org/support-the-519/donate).

Donors list reflects donations received from January 1 to December 31, 2017. The 519 makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. For any inquiries, please email [Giving@The519.org](mailto:Giving@The519.org).

## Third-Party Fundraising

1Club  
6IX Cycle  
Afrodelik  
Akasha Art Projects  
& Karl Lohnes  
Le Bal Masque - Polly Perry  
Events  
Bandit Brewery  
Body Confidence Canada  
Bur Oak School  
Canadian Arts  
& Fashion Awards  
Curvy Bunz Clothing Swap  
Delphi Secondary  
Alternative School  
ExeQutive  
Fasken LLP  
Forest Hill Collegiate  
Institute

Forest Hill Jr. and Sr. Public  
School  
Gift The Code - Capital  
One  
Greenwood College School  
H&M  
Hart House Choir  
Hawthorne & Essex GSA  
LCBO  
Loblaws Maple Leaf  
Gardens  
Loyalist College  
Lyft  
Malvern Collegiate Home  
& School Council  
Marsh Canada  
Ashley McGhee  
Metropolitan United  
Church

Microsoft GLEAM  
Mini Mioche  
Modern Plant  
OCAD University Alumni  
Association  
Ontario Public Service  
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt  
LLP  
George Postlethwait Jr.  
Prime Timers  
Queens of Cannabis  
Rogers Communications  
Royal St. George's College  
Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate  
Spring Thaw  
Stitch for a Cause - Mickey  
Agnelli & Bri Hoy  
Tangerine Bank

The St. Andrew's Junior  
High School  
The Woodlands School  
Thompson Toronto  
Toronto Gay Hockey  
Association  
Toronto Public Service  
TransCanada Bike Ride -  
James Lovasz  
Triangle Squares  
Uber Canada  
UpLiftTO  
Wedding Crasher Queens  
- Alex & Pip Josselyn-  
Hamilton  
Wedding of Julia Lo  
& Aqeela Nanji  
Whole Foods Market  
Woody's & Sailor's

If you would like to get involved in raising funds for us through third-party events or campaigns, please email [Giving@The519.org](mailto:Giving@The519.org)



The 519 Annual Gala (Photo by George Pimentel)



Volunteers at Green Space Festival, 2018



Starry Night, Green Space Festival 2018 (Photo by Aydin Matlabi)

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2017	2016
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>Core City of Toronto Funding</b>	<b>\$ 1,389,685</b>	<b>\$ 1,352,701</b>
<b>Programs &amp; Services Funding</b>	<b>4,761,433</b>	<b>5,585,321</b>
Government Grants		
City of Toronto	341,293	327,912
Government of Ontario	119,527	86,921
Government of Canada	405,642	316,644
Philanthropy, Fundraising & Social Enterprise		
United Way	247,844	269,167
Other/Foundations	145,310	118,896
Philanthropy & Special Events	2,203,584	2,117,128
Special Projects	353,113	1,472,229
Social/Productive Enterprise	945,120	876,424
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>6,151,118</b>	<b>6,938,022</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Core Funded Expenses</b>	<b>1,389,684</b>	<b>1,352,701</b>
Centre Administration	347,421	338,175
Information & Referral	333,524	324,648
Building Maintenance	472,493	459,918
Program Support	236,246	229,960
<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>4,640,811</b>	<b>5,160,480</b>
General Organizational		
Development/Administration	349,254	285,134
Philanthropy & Special Events	1,256,144	1,000,895
Children & Family Programs	174,154	169,456
Community Engagement		
Drop-in programs	450,563	322,167
Newcomer & Refugee Services	569,925	419,092
Counselling & Support	270,611	196,256
Social/Productive Enterprise	1,158,507	1,228,385
Special Projects/Moss Park	353,643	1,472,229
Depreciation	58,010	66,866
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>6,030,495</b>	<b>6,513,181</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>120,623</b>	<b>424,841</b>

\*The surplus from our operating activities (excluding grant funding and other defined contributions) is set aside in restricted and unrestricted reserve funds for future program requirements or emergency needs.



Disco Disco, Green Space Festival  
2018 (Photo by Aydin Matlabi)



# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

With many thanks to our 2017/18 Board of Management.



**DAVID MORRIS**  
Chair of the Board



**GWEN BENAWAY**  
Vice-Chair of the Board



**TOM WARNER**  
Treasurer of the Board



**PAM HRICK**  
Secretary of the Board



**NICHOLA WARD**  
Member of the Board



**PAUL NOBLE**  
Member of the Board



**LINDA BOOKER**  
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**PATRICK GERVAIS**  
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**BIKO BEUTTAH**  
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**PAUL JONATHAN SAGUIL**  
Member of the Board



**JUSTIN KHAN**  
Member of the Board  
Chair, Green Space Festival 2018



**COUNCILLOR KRISTYN WONG-TAM**  
City Councillor for Ward 27 — Toronto Centre-Rosedale  
and Ex-Officio Member of the Board



The 519 is committed to the health, happiness and full participation of the LGBTQ2S communities in Toronto and beyond.

**We would love it if you would join us in this work.**

**Become a member**

[The519.org/support-The-519/join](http://The519.org/support-The-519/join)

**Donate to our programs**

[The519.org/support-The-519/donate](http://The519.org/support-The-519/donate)

**Raise funds for us as a third party**

[The519.org/support-The-519/ways-to-give](http://The519.org/support-The-519/ways-to-give)

**Get training for your organization**

[The519.org/education-training](http://The519.org/education-training)

**Book space**

To book space at The 519 contact us at [Info@The519.org](mailto:Info@The519.org)

**Learn about our programs**

[The519.org/programs](http://The519.org/programs)



519 Church St, Toronto ON, M4Y 2C9

[Info@The519.org](mailto:Info@The519.org)

416-392-6874

[The519.org](http://The519.org)



[/The519](https://www.instagram.com/The519)



The 519 is an agency of the City of Toronto  
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Cover image: Community Vigil 2018 (Photo by 416Kings) Design: lightupthesky.ca