

March 31 / 2014.



HRM Community Grants Program
 PO Box 1749
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 B3J 3A5

Adjudication
 Required. *py*

March 15 2014

Dear Community Grants Representatives,

6 MONTHS

The Music Liberatory has been registered since October 9, 2013 and is asking for special consideration in order to maintain its momentum. The Music Liberatory is a volunteer-run mutual aid group aimed to dramatically increase the number of female instrumentalists by providing free public programming for women and girls, with emphasis on women of colour. With funds to acquire instruments, the members of the organization will be able to develop and perform a colourful all-female steel pan orchestra.

In November 2013, the Music Liberatory ran its first public program at the North Branch Memorial Library titled "Admiring Female Rap Lyrics." The goal of the workshop facilitated community activist Folami Jones and myself, was to gather women attracted to hip hop music in the hope that these same women shared a desire to develop musically. Twenty racially diverse women from all classes attended the initial workshop. These same women continue to participate and plan the ongoing workshops. To date, the members have written their own lyrics, performed at local venues, composed songs, and participated in community jams. Through discussion, the group has concluded that it requires some concentrated skill development on a shared instrument. The steel pan is an ideal choice because of its versatility, tonal advantages, mathematical design, cost, and most importantly its African heritage.

Mr. Joseph Solomon, a local steel pan musician and expert has made a generous offer to support the Music Liberatory's Steel Pan Orchestra for the next three years. He has extensive personal experience arranging, directing, and managing community steel pan bands. He has been working with Tamar Dina since December 2013 to support the Music Liberatory's mandate.

It is both the group's own assessment, along with encouragement from Mr. Joseph Solomon, that the organization harnesses its momentum during the spring in preparation for summer performances. Steel pan instruments require no amplification and therefore make outdoor public performance ideal for community projects.

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Playing and sharing music remain a tried and valid method for bringing people together. However, it is rare to see diversified all female or even female dominated instrumental musical groups. The members' commitment to the weekly workshops suggests an exciting and opportune time to support the Music Liberatory's Steel Pan Orchestra.

The Music Liberatory has been present and welcomed in the North End, choosing the North Branch Memorial Public Library as a meeting place because it offers a safe space for diversity in Halifax. The group has been invited and looks forward to playing the steel pans by the George E. Clarke's "North is Freedom" poem inscribed on the sculpture outside, and the Emerging Lens Film Fest in 2015. There is no doubt that the Music Liberatory's Steel Pan Orchestra will receive many invitations to perform. The group looks forward to demonstrating the vitality and strength of Caribbean music, as well as the phenomenal power of female unity across race and class.

Once the membership advances its musical skills, the Music Liberatory plans to provide public programming to more women and girls. The Music Liberatory has already worked in collaboration with trusted community organizations in the North End. In addition to its tight relationship with the North Branch Public Library, the group collaborates with the Community YMCA, Centreline Studios (a free recording studio program for youth) the Halifax Music Coop (a classical music education program) and the Bus Stop Theatre (a community performance space).

Attached you will find letters of support. Many other individuals and organizations would be happy to advocate for our programming and speak to the grant representatives. Feel free to call me for any addition information.

Sincerely,

Tamar Dina

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the music liberatory is a registered non-profit women's group set to dramatically increase the number of female instrumentalists by uniting women across race and class to address inequality in music culture by creating our own.

the current membership is mostly women of colour ranging in age from early twenties to mid-sixties. The group consists of professional, emerging and novice artists from a variety of art forms. All members are excited to develop their instrumental musicianship in a female led, women-centred musical environment.

The organization aims:

- To provide girls and women free feminist musical education and experiences
- To provide free training to women and girls so they may provide free feminist musical education and experiences
- To provide leadership on the praxis of feminist musical education and experiences
- To provide leadership to supportive men and boys regarding skill sharing with girls and women
- To facilitate national and international learning exchanges with female musicians
- To encourage cross cultural feminist musical expression
- To build long-lasting solidarity amongst women and girls in the promotion of equality
- To encourage and work in alliance with similar pedagogical programs and women's groups in general
- To challenge the lack of female representation in the music industry and culture
- To challenge systems that undermine female participation in music and culture

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