

# CHILDREN'S PEACE THEATRE

Children's Peace Theatre is a registered charitable organization that is committed to *Creating a Culture of Peace* by engaging children and young people through the practice of theatre and art.

Awards include the **Mayor's Community Safety Award** in **2007**, the **YMCA Peace Medallion** in **2006**, and the prestigious **Leonardo Da Vinci Innovation Award** in **2007**.

Children's Peace Theatre offers a wide range of innovative artistic and theatre programs for children and youth, including in-school workshops, after-school and weekend programs, and of course Peace Camp every July.

## Upcoming Events:

**International Day of Peace:** September 21, 2013

*(In partnership with Congo Solidario)*

**1st Annual East End Poetry Festival:** September 28, 2013

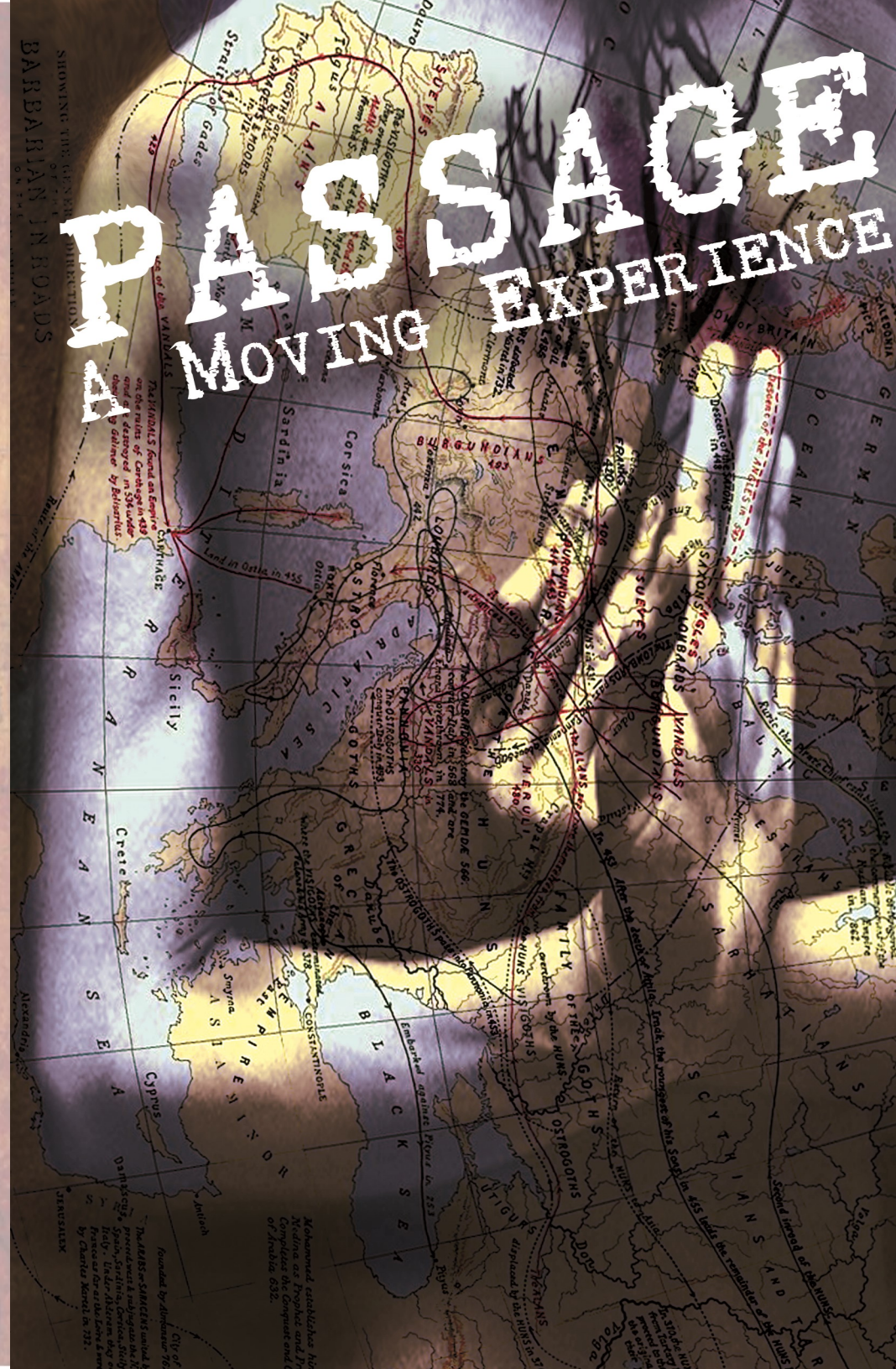
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[www.childrenspacetheatre.org](http://www.childrenspacetheatre.org)



## MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome family, friends and allies,

**Passage: A Moving Experience** is dedicated to our friend Fernando Lara and the thousands like him who have been denied a fair claim to asylum in Canada, and endured many injustices including the withdrawal of their human right to health care while in Canada.

The story of global migration has not been an easy one to tell and it cannot be told without first acknowledging that that this story takes place on the occupied lands of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations and Turtle Island.

At the heart of the story of migration, lies racism, white privilege, xenophobia, prejudice, classism, gender and sexual discrimination, and many intersecting forms of oppression. Although this may sound extreme to some, these persistent realities are both the cause of most of the world's migration, the root of the poor treatment of many newcomers, and the reason we allow our own government to remove all humanitarian aspects of our immigration system with barely a peep of dissent.

*Passage* is the result of three weeks of 70 children, youth and artists bravely delving into a heartfelt investigation of the difficulties that immigrants and refugees face in building a new home here in Toronto. This work could not have been done without confronting our own accountability in this system that perpetuates these oppressions.

Through the development of this play, as artists building trust amongst each other, we created a space in which transformative moments could happen and ground the critical analysis of this play. I am appreciative of all the knowledge and wisdom that was shared by our guides and artists, which called us to engage in deep listening, asking the right questions, and building safer spaces for these important dialogues that have furthered the evolution of our process for future peace camps and campers.

I am forever grateful to the young participants who shared their stories of arriving in Canada, their pain, and by extension the pain many of our communities face, as they grieve the loss of their homes, cultures and identities. I am also forever grateful to the children who had the courage to take on the stories with such commitment and empathy.

I feel deeply touched and strengthened by the stories of resistance, revolution and responsibility that emerged. Special gratitude goes out to Rosary Spence and Marie Gaudet for sharing the Anishwabe Creation Story and its powerful message about the four races and their responsibilities to care for the earth, water, air and fire.

Through art we have seen how we have so much to learn from each other and that our city and our world is strengthened by diversity and collaboration, as exemplified by the cultural fusion of our musical guests Gary Diggins, Marito Marques, and Pako Luviano.

For me, this experience has renewed my belief in the possibility of peaceful co-existence and my commitment to working in solidarity with all people who come to this city seeking understanding, justice and a place to call home.

In gratitude and love,

Karen Emerson, Artistic Director

## DONORS



### ST. CLAIR ICE CREAM

President's Choice, CNE, Kalyvia, Magic Oven, Jawny Bakers, M&M Meat Shops, Bun King, Mondelez, Danforth Roti, Diamond Pizza, Whole Foods Market

## VOLUNTEERS

Kelson Morris

Lasanna Small

Hyerin Jeong

Mary Luo

Iris Ma

Michelle Kim

Jocey von Atzigen

Sabrina Porter

Diane Dinong

Jessica George

Seunghee Han

Yohan Ko

Uhui Choe

Madoka Furuhashi

Chiharu Kaga

Yu Machida

Yuri Senoo

Eriko Iketani



**A very special thanks to all the volunteers at the PIP Parade and**

**Peace Camp Gala Celebration. We couldn't have done this**

**without you!**

## Board of Directors

Steve Bissell, **Chair**     Matthew Haldoupis  
Liuba Mamonova, **Treasurer**     Jaskaran Kalra  
Jayashree Goswami, **Secretary**     Nuwan Rajapakse  
Michelle Cruickshank

## Children's Peace Theatre Staff

Karen Emerson, **Artistic Director**  
Lucia Ly, **General Manager**  
Alix Mukonambi, **Assistant Manager**  
Lida Alirezaei, **Program Coordinator**

## Summer Staff

Mohamad Abou Ali, **Summer Workshop & Parade Coordinator**  
Ahnaf Tahmid, **Summer Events & Promotions Coordinator**  
Joyce Tan, **Peace Camp Coordinator**  
Hanan Dinong, **Parade and Workshop Assistant**  
Hoda Abokar, **Parade and Workshop Assistant**  
Jerome Laing, **Parade and Workshop Assistant**  
Aiden Kowolik, **Parade and Workshop Assistant**

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!



Canada Council  
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KNIGHTS  
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When I was first offered the task of directing a play about migration, co-created by children, my first reaction was "I would love to!" My second was "Oh my gosh -- what did I just say yes to?" To call this theme "big" is an enormous understatement. Global migration is the phenomenon that has in large part created our present world. Millions and millions of people around the world reside in nations that are not their birthplaces, for a myriad of reasons. I knew immediately that this wasn't something we could unearth fully, so the challenge was determining which subthemes of the topic to shine a light on through this piece. The answers came largely from the campers and what resonated most strongly with them during our period of exploration in Week One.



I never cease to be captured by the intelligence and honesty of children. They possess the incredible ability to tell the truth as they see it, unfettered by the filters that can so often bind adults. Often shy at first, once they move past their initial reservations, their forthrightness can truly illuminate. A process that began with a discussion about our Indigenous people and Canada's colonial past soon gave birth to a creative journey exploring the subthemes of language, identity, education, refugees, assimilation and the eternal question -- what and where is "home"?

Creating this show has been a challenging experience, but an enlightening one as well. Moments of joy have buoyed and invigorated the process. Moments of conflict have served as a mirror, asking each of us to question our assumptions and understanding of the world and each other. It has *all* been about each other. I cannot express my gratitude enough to everyone who has helped to bring *Passage* to the stage, particularly the Artist & Youth Guides, our wonderful directors, and the children who inspire me. I would name names, but there are too many and the list goes beyond those on the stage, in the office or even those here with us. Thank you all for your contributions and commitment. And thank YOU, our audience, for celebrating the efforts of our campers today. We wish you peace.

Namaste,  
Tanisha Taitt

Director, Peace Camp 2013  
*Passage: A Moving Experience*

## MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

**T**his is my fourth year as the M.D. at the Peace Theatre and I am constantly asked “why do it?” I don’t work with kids EVER in my regular musical career and, in the past, have often been perplexed by them. I have a filthy Brooklyn mouth and asked if there was a budget for therapy for these kids if Peace Theatre were seriously thinking of bringing me in. But this place is a reminder of the genuineness and authenticity children bring with them when they walk into a room. Not just in how they live, but perhaps as a reminder of how we should all live. Their abilities to embody a moment is the stuff all jazz musicians interested in expression would kill to have. So I take off July every year from touring and come here to be reminded of all the reasons children really are our future. I know that might sound trite or Hallmark card-ish, but the Children’s Peace Theatre is such a strong reminder of just how true that sentiment is.



**BUT** — this year’s theme has been nothing short of grueling. The depths of discussion and exploration surrounding Migration are unimaginable and led to extensive interaction and exposition of this nuanced and complex topic. Many strong personal feelings and agendas surfaced, right along with all the feelings associated with that kind of investment... it was interesting to watch the Artist Guides struggle and grow through the experience. But I think such discourse is healthy. And necessary. We’re not all meant to agree. But are meant to live together, and for me—Migration speaks to that fact loudly — the idea that we’re all on this spaceship earth together and **HAVE** to find ways to get along. The great struggle to live together when we’re all so different.

So I entered into the task of composition this year with that in mind, and wanting to challenge the children with some more complex harmonic, rhythmic and melodic function than in previous years. This year’s opening & closing songs feature a jazz chord progress applied in a few different world music forms that are very challenging, requiring the children to hear small harmonic movements from their peers — while hanging tightly to their own part... before moving themselves a few bars later. And early on — they were terrible. No kidding... just brutal in a way that I wondered if I had bitten off more than I could chew this year with my overly-ambitious plans. But they **QUICKLY** adapted, as children do. And by the end of the second week, as these little voices held their parts and memorized lines and navigated complex rhythms, I found myself beaming with pride. They have all risen to the occasion and I look forward to standing at my station on stage right, where I’m parked every year and watching these remarkable youngsters do what they do every year — amaze me with the depths of their spirits and their boundless potential.

A’ight... I’m out. Peace.

Brownman, Music Director, Children’s Peace Theatre

## SONG LYRICS: PASSAGES

### CHORUS :

Passages, from space to space  
Passages, from place to place  
Passages, from face to face  
Passages, we’re all from the human race

### VERSE 1 : (Home, Language)

We have to leave, for my land I grieve  
Feeling so alone, frightened to the bone  
Everywhere is strange, everything has changed  
See my spirit roam, when will this feel like home?

Easy to lose hope, it’s so hard to cope  
When you have no choice but to use your voice  
Aching for a friend, no one comprehends  
When I try to speak, words play hide-and-seek

### CHORUS

### VERSE 2 : (Education, Identity)

The years I yearned, all the things I learned  
Buried in my books -- now they give me looks  
Did I work so hard for this disregard?  
“School would do you good!” ... a life misunderstood

Bear the gravity of my identity  
Wear it like a glove, but when push comes to shove  
Is my destiny just a calamity?  
Hear me say my name, must shed this cloak of shame

### CHORUS

### VERSE 3 : (Assimilation, Refugees)

Flee the stain, of a world insane  
Family out of sight long to reunite  
How can we be ‘wrong’ -- why don’t we belong?  
Pain is trapped in time, I am not a crime

Silent is your pride, caught on the outside  
Drowning in your fears, tired are your tears  
“You we’ll never trust! You’re not one of us!”  
Hiding from the hate, I assimilate

### CHORUS (2x)

### Closing Song

### CHORUS

As we fly through space, searching for our place  
As passengers embraced, by earth our own home base

Where are we all from, marching to our own drums  
Must live together some, wary neighbours... we’ve become

We learn to live our lives, equality deprived  
While some of us have died, in the fight to thrive  
Evolution strives, growth means we survive  
Whatever your home base, we’re all from the human race

### HOOK

As we all leave together, So we all grieve together  
We move through pain together, In search of something greater  
All of our hopes can create, A new world with different fates  
with brave hearts minds untethered, We embrace love unfettered

### CHORUS

### HOOK

Passages, from space to space,  
Passages, from place to place  
Passages, from face to face  
Passages, we’re all from the human race

### RAP (performed by Juliet)

From the top to the bottom as we all go around  
on the ship that we call earth there are people gettin down  
Tryin ta live with the neighbours that play games as we  
move towards a future where the kids are are the same  
But wait, hold up, just stop, I don’t just mean the same face  
Cuz we’re all a little different on the surface of this rat race  
The moral of my story droppin’ wisdom from my head  
is no matter where you come from all our blood is red red red (WORD!)

### CHORUS, PERCUSSION BREAKDOWN, TRUMPET SOLO

### LAST CHORUS



## JANET DAVIS

City Councillor  
Ward 31  
Beaches-East York

**Jayson Thiessen**  
Executive Assistant

**Lia Brewer**  
Constituency Assistant

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July 4, 2013

Dear Children's Peace Theatre,

I'd like to congratulate and thank the staff, volunteers, participants, and supporters of the Children's Peace Theatre for your work to build a culture of peace in our community and city.

Since 2001, the Children's Peace Theatre has been a forum for children, youth, and the community to explore peaceful and creative alternatives to conflict. Participants have an opportunity to gain performance experience, develop new relationships and skills, and develop a better understanding of conflict and peace.

Children's Peace Theatre performances across Toronto encourage children and adults to pause for a moment and ask ourselves what we can do to reduce violence in our lives. This year CPT brings us "*Passage: A moving Experience*". I know it will be another inspirational and provocative presentation.

Enjoy the show!

Councillor Janet Davis  
Ward 31 Beaches – East York

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES: GUEST SPEAKERS

**Rosary Spence** joined us to share traditional Cree music and stories. Rosary is a multi-talented and multi-disciplinary artist. She is a powerful speaker whose voice is mesmerizing. We are so thrilled that she will also be opening our show with a Sacred song and Medicine teachings.

**Marie Gaudet** shared the Ojibwe Creation Story and Medicine teaching. She guided us in creating our own Medicine wheels based on her teaching of the wheel which represents the four directions, four seasons, four stages of life, and four animals that are the cornerstone of all of the teachings held within the Aboriginal way of life. Marie is a writer, visual artist, publisher, cultural teacher and mother who works as a teacher at the First Nations School of Toronto.

**Gary Diggins** brought a room full of instruments from all over the world and treated us to a musical global fusion and experience of music as medicine. Gary is a gifted musician who employs an integrated approach to using music and mindfulness for healing which he has gleaned from his many teachers all around the globe.

## CENTRE FOR REFUGEE STUDIES

**Special thanks to Wangui Kimari and her work documenting our passage on Knowledge Migration** a micro-site of the Refugee Research Network. The aim of Knowledge Migration is to invite and discuss migration-related knowledge by sharing more community and experiential information on migration and highlighting innovative projects that address migration issues in diverse ways. They can be reached at: <http://refugeereseach.net/ms/km/> and [wkimari@yorku.ca](mailto:wkimari@yorku.ca)

## RECEPTION PERFORMANCE

**Thank you to Juno award-winning singer, songwriter, guitarist and producer, Donn e Roberts** for bringing beautiful rhythms to our post performance reception. Donn e was born in Madagascar, raised and educated in Moscow, Russia and now lives in Toronto. In Moscow, he was the first black VJ on MTV Russia. Touring Canada, he introduces his music to new fans who might be unfamiliar with the kinds of rhythms his music conveys and his fusion of seemingly dissimilar sounds.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

CHECK IN: 4:30PM TO 5:00PM

DEPARTURE: 5:00PM

RECEPTION: 7:00PM TO 8:30PM

(WITH PERFORMANCE BY DONNÉ ROBERTS)

## DIRECTORS

**Artistic Director:** Karen Emerson

**Visual Arts Director:**

**Director:** Tanisha Taitt

Melisse Watson

**Music Director:** Brownman

**Assistant Theatre Director:**

**Assistant Music Director:**

Robert Wilkinson

Abigail Neale

**Stage Manager:** Harmony Cohen

## ARTIST GUIDES

Ayesha Mansur

Nico Contreras

Cassie Muise

Rick Campbell

Kwanza Msingwana

Sun the Real Sun

## YOUTH GUIDES

Amber Williams-King

Rosa Solorzano

Clea McLaffrey

Ruth Kayembe

Eden Tesfai

Sasha-Kaye Smith

Isabella Lyne

Sirak Tesfu

Natalie Breton

Theodore van Beusekom

Prince Munemo

Tilleca Rompey



**Michael Prue, MPP**

Beaches-East York

July 2013

Dear Peace Theatre Participants:

Congratulations on another successful year of programs for our youth.

It has been my privilege to attend many of the events hosted at the Theatre.

This year's production will prove again the ingenuity and talent of the performers as they highlight issues of conflict, both local and international.

The lessons learned here will last a lifetime and a new generation committed to non-violent conflict resolution and a world where peace prevails. Young people learn that there are better ways – methods to end brutality, bullying and other forms of aggression.

In a culture that too often glorifies violent activity and in a media which portrays violence in films, art, and music this theatre group produces a positive counter-view. The programming has a powerful and profound affect on changing perspectives.

Thank you to the wonderful team who work with our youth – board members, volunteers and the many performers who give their talents.

Congratulations again for producing this year's gala and best wishes to all involved.

Yours truly,

Michael D. Prue MPP  
Beaches-East York

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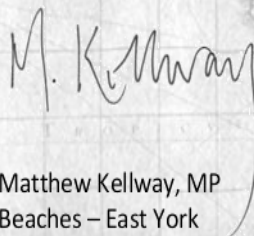
July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2013 Annual Peace Camp Gala, hosted by the Children's Peace Theatre.

This Gala represents a culmination of creative efforts of a dynamic collective of active youth participants, volunteers, facilitators and staff. The Children's Peace Theatre provides a safe environment for children and youth to learn and wrestle with the possibilities of hope and peace.

My deepest thanks to all those involved,



Matthew Kellway, MP  
Beaches – East York

## CAST

Alyssia Fernandes	Juan Diego Teran Lopez
Aneeqa Tahsin Hasan	Julian Sanchez
Angubin Zavqibekov	Juliette Leach
Anna Richter	Kai Korven
Avramgzeb Zavqibekov	Lilliane Jeanty
Braedon Brooks	Luka Korven
Caitlin Rieser	Miller Pottinger
Camila Gonzalez Martinez	Mira Bateman
Catalina Molina Echeverry	Naomi Shaw
Celine Gould	Natalie Forsyth
Cerys Besson	Patrick Aguilera
Charlotte Leach	Rhys Besson
Delina Berhe	Scott Marshall
Elizabeth Sanchez Flores	Simon Marechal
Emma Jarvis	Summer Figueroa
Ethan Stehr	Taamara Thanaraja
Eva Shaw	Tenzin Dolma Tsultrim
Hanna Walker	Tomas van Beusekom
Ingrid Forsyth	Victoria Ruscica
Jordan Smith	Yohannes Ghermai
Joseph Ruscica	

## CULTURE JAM

Children's Peace Theatre, in partnership with Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services, ran a new arts project for newcomer and refugee children in the Taylor Massey Neighborhood.



With funding from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Government of Ontario Cultural Strategic Investment Fund, Culture Jam engaged 200 children under the age of 13 in four workshop series at both Children's Peace Theatre and Access Point on Danforth. This project will help to bridge the gap in arts opportunities for children in the Taylor Massey Community.

The first two Workshops ran during March Break at both Children's Peace Theatre and at Access Point on the Danforth.

The third workshop which was a week long Free Puppet Making Workshop, ran on July 15-19 and July 22-25 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Children's Peace Theatre and Access Point on Danforth.

### CULTURE JAM VOLUNTEERS

Al-amin Ahmed  
Chloe Lee  
Naima Sheikh  
Jahmeila Moore  
Sneh Sunder  
Geraldine Malivert

### CULTURE JAM ARTISTS

Lida Alirezaei  
Arber Makri  
Manush Eslahi  
Diane Dinong

## PEACE IS POSSIBLE PARADE

In celebration of Toronto being one of the world's most diverse cities, Children's Peace Theatre will engage with over 150 children this summer to showcase their cultures in a giant parade. The children worked with professional artists to explore their cultures and make banners, songs and puppets to revel a city where over 200 cultures live in Peace.

### PARADE PARTICIPANTS

Samba Kidz  
Culture Jam  
Kickstart  
Secord Community Centre  
Safe Haven



### Special Thanks to all of the Following Groups for Making the 10th Annual Peace Is Possible Parade Happen

Toronto Police: 54 Division  
Riocan  
Crescent Town Elementary School  
Tropicana Community Services  
Neighbourhood Action Partnerships  
And of course our amazing parade volunteers!

### Parade Volunteers

Ernest Leung  
Mary Luo  
Kalindu De Costa  
Iris Ma  
Jocey von Atzigen  
Sabrina Porter  
Ajuna Thiyanavadivel  
Sadhana Thiyanavadivel