

Jane Finch Social Innovation Hub

Jane Finch
Social
Innovation
Hub

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Our Partners

- The York University Faculty Association
- The Resource Centre for Public Sociology
- Success Beyond Limits
- The Department of Sociology
- York University - TD Community Engagement Centre



A Message from the Hub Coordinator

Khadar Hilowle

"As Coordinator of the Jane Finch Social Innovation Hub my role was to oversee the logistics of the Hub. For me, it was much more than just a collection of rooms. I saw students build friendships and relationships in a space that was dedicated to them. I saw students find a space that they could call their own, and that was important".

What is the Social Innovation Hub?

The Jane Finch Social Innovation Hub is a place created for students from the Black Creek/Jane Finch Community who attend York University. The Hub was created as a response to Jane and Finch students at York University who communicated that they wanted a space on campus where they could gather, build stronger connections with each other, foster mentorship, have access to resources to support their studies, and continue to build their leadership skills.



Students who attend the Social Innovation Hub

The Jane Finch Social Innovation Hub builds on the relationship established by Success Beyond Limits (SBL) and York University-TD Community Engagement Center's (CEC) First Year Network. The Hub successfully launched on January 30th and ran for a five-week period that was cut short due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. During the first five-weeks of operation, the Hub was able to host workshops, provide resources to students from the community, create meaningful relationships and foster a truly collaborative and community-based space on campus.

Hub Info



The Jane Finch Social Innovation Hub providing key resources to students from the local community. These included free printing and access to a computer which many students found helpful in completing course papers and assignments. Also made available were accessible study areas, collaborative meeting spaces and most importantly access to peer relationships and mentors. Many participants talked about meeting new friends from the community that they weren't previously connected to and learning about new opportunities. In the short time the Hub has been open, an average of 10-15 students visited the Hub each day.

Mondays were most commonly used as a quiet study day. During hours the Hub was open, students came in to complete their coursework, work on assignments and study with their peers. Snacks and refreshments were provided. During the evenings the space became multi-functional for example hosting movie and games nights. Typically, students who had worked on course assignments for a couple hours would stay and in the evenings the space functioned as a communal meeting space to build social networks, share tips and help relieve stress.

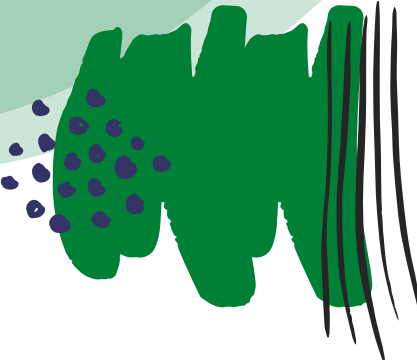
Hub Info

3

Workshops in
2 months

106

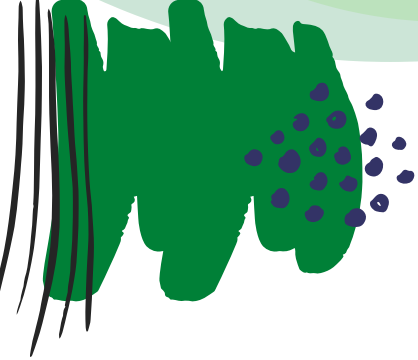
Students used the
space from
January 30th to
March 9th



During the day
students
would come in
and
complete their
coursework, study
for assignments
and
study with their
peers

10-15

Students used the space
per day



A community
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stress

Student Feedback

Ajoke O, 1st Year Student

"My first year at York University has been pretty difficult, just because of the harsh transition from high school to university. [...] One thing I had a problem with was finding a space I was comfortable working in.

This is why I am glad I have the Social Innovation Hub within York University. This space allows me to work, have fun and interact with the other individuals as well as reconnect with old friends whom we don't get to see as much. I feel it is important to have a space where you feel like you can take a break from school, get work done, meet new people, and relax with friends"



Shemar B, 2nd Year Student

"The space is not only important but unique because there is no other space on campus similar in nature considering it's tailored for Jane and Finch youth. It's a comfortable space but in the same breath constructive because I'm meeting like minded individuals while being productive. It eliminates imposter syndrome and is somewhere I go to for "good vibes" which is necessary today more than ever. [...] In light of the hub I realized York University actually does care to directly accommodate people from undeserved communities/minorities like myself. "

Student Feedback

Haji S, 2nd Year Student

"What I liked about the hub was how it was a place you can come chill and do work. It helped me reconnect with friends and for the future I want to see more events happening if possible"

Asmaa M, 1st Year Student

"I think the hub is a great place for us to take a break from the busy life of being a university student. It's a place where you can get help and bounce ideas off fellow York students"

Darren A, 2nd Year Student

"The Hub is important to me because it allows me to have a space to do work on campus and around people I'm familiar with. It also helps financially as the snack helped prevent me from having to spend copious amounts of money on lunch since the restaurants on campus are expensive"