

FOR RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTSC Campus Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Irena Creed, Vice-Principal Research & Innovation, UTSC
CONTACT INFO: vpresearch.utsc@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 26, 2023 for May 10, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Creation of The FLOURISH Centre for Community Arts and Social Wellness (the FLOURISH Centre) as a new Extra-Departmental Unit C (EDU:C)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.1 of the *Terms of Reference*, the CAC is responsible for the “*Establishment, termination or restructuring of academic units and proposals for Extra-Departmental Units.*” Section 5.8.1 of the *Terms of Reference* provides that the CAC recommends to the UTSC Council “*on plans and proposals to establish, disestablish, or significantly restructure academic units...regardless of the source of funds. Proposals for Extra-Departmental Units (EDU)-A’s and B’s are considered and recommended for approval while those for EDU-C’s are considered and approved, pursuant to the Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning.*”

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **UTSC Campus Affairs Committee [For Recommendation] (May 10, 2023)**
2. UTSC Campus Council [For Approval] (May 24, 2023)
3. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (June 15, 2023)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) is proposing the creation of The FLOURISH Centre for Community Arts and Social Wellness (the FLOURISH Centre) as a new Extra-Departmental Unit C (EDU:C). UTSC will be the Lead Division. The Vice-Principal Research and Innovation will assume active administrative and budgetary responsibility for the FLOURISH Centre, and will appoint a Director, who will be responsible for the administrative and financial operations of the FLOURISH Centre. The inaugural director will be Professor Andrea Charise (Department of Health and Society, UTSC).

The FLOURISH Centre will establish a home for a robust theoretical, applied, and community-driven evidence base for integrating arts practices into Canadian health and social care services. It will be the first of its kind in Canada to be dedicated to research, training, and advocacy for community-engaged arts as a method for social wellness. The FLOURISH Centre builds on three years of innovative arts and social wellness research and programming with community partners funded by external agencies (SSHRC, NFRF) and UTSC's Clusters of Scholarly Prominence Program over the period 2020-2023. Under the leadership of Professor Andrea Charise, a dynamic and interdisciplinary group of scholars with expertise in the arts, humanities, social sciences, healthcare, education, and public policy has established durable relationships with community partners in Canada's largest urban centre, with a focus on the historically underserved east end of Toronto, co-creating research and programming on arts and social wellness.

The FLOURISH Centre will house an intentionally diverse collective of research faculty and highly-qualified personnel, including postdoctoral fellows and graduate trainees, to conduct research in three areas: 1) *Research Methodologies* (arts-based research and creation practices; methodological approaches unique to the arts; and innovative assessment approaches to transform scholarly understanding of the societal benefits of art engagement), 2) *Arts Advocacy* (centering Indigenous, Black, communities of colour, and equity-deserving groups/orgs already doing the work of research, education/training, and capacity building), and 3) *Implementation and Policy Development* (developing key mandate actions to support arts-wellness initiatives at local, provincial, national levels). In addition, the FLOURISH Centre will provide training and mentorship opportunities, host invited speakers and scholars/artists/activists (ScholArtiVists) in-residence, and develop policy proposals to enable the implementation of interdisciplinary arts-wellness initiatives for the broader public.

The FLOURISH Centre promotes the five strategic priorities identified in UTSC's strategic plan, *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*, and is aligned with current institutional initiatives like the Institute for Inclusive Health and Wellbeing that is part of iRISE and the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH), and the forthcoming Cultural Innovation District.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

FLOURISH will receive \$100,000 per year for a five-year period from the OVPRI. It has secured approximately 1.08 million in Tri-council and foundation funding through to 2024. Additional sources of funding are expected to be further tri-council grants (e.g., SSHRC Partnership and Insight programs), philanthropic foundations, and other donors.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Recommended to the UTSC Campus Council,

THAT, the creation of the FLOURISH Centre for Community Arts and Social Wellness (the FLOURISH Centre) as a new Extra-Departmental Unit C as described in the proposal, dated April 30th, 2023, be approved effective June 16th, 2023.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

1. Proposal: The FLOURISH Centre for Community Arts and Social Wellness (the FLOURISH Centre) as a new Extra-Departmental Unit C
2. Budget: The FLOURISH Centre for Community Arts and Social Wellness (the FLOURISH Centre) as a new Extra-Departmental Unit C

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW EDU:C

The FLOURISH Centre for Community Arts and Social Wellness

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. OVERVIEW AND VISION..... | p. 2 |
| 2. RATIONALE | p. 3 |
| a) Background: What is Arts-Engaged Social Wellness? | |
| b) The FLOURISH Centre: A Unique Niche and Need | |
| c) Departmental Contributions and Benefits | |
| d) National Role and Comparables | |
| 3. RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC GOALS..... | p. 6 |
| a) Overview: Research Goals and Objectives | |
| b) Expected Contribution to Knowledge | |
| c) Theoretical and Methodological Overview | |
| d) Expected Outcomes | |
| e) Relevance for Partner Organizations | |
| f) Academic Life: The FLOURISH “Learning Academy” | |
| g) Policy-related Knowledge Mobilization | |
| 4. CONTRIBUTION TO INDIGENIZATION, EDI, AND SUSTAINABILITY..... | p. 10 |
| 5. ASSESSMENT..... | p. 12 |
| 6. LIST OF PROPOSED MEMBERS | p. 15 |
| 7. GOVERNANCE | p. 17 |
| 8. FINANCES & RESOURCES..... | p. 18 |
| a) Requested Finances | |
| b) Existing Budgetary Support (i.e. OVPRI, secured external grants: SSHRC PDG, NFRF) | |
| 9. CONSULTATION | p. 20 |
| 10. ENDORSEMENT | p. 21 |
| • Appendix A: Landscape Analysis of Comparable Arts-Wellness Initiatives: Local, National, International | |
| • Appendix B: Detailed EDU-C Budget and Timeline | |

1. OVERVIEW AND VISION

We propose the creation of **The FLOURISH Centre for Community Arts and Social Wellness** (“The FLOURISH Centre”) as an Extra Departmental Unit (EDU)-C at University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (UTSC). Building on three years of externally-funded, innovative arts and social wellness programming first initiated with the *FLOURISH: Community Arts and Social Wellness* Cluster of Scholarly Prominence (2020-23), our vision for The FLOURISH Center at UTSC is to advance scholarly understanding—and applications—of arts engagement as a method for enhancing social connection and wellness across the lifecourse.

Against views of the arts as supplementary to health and social care, the FLOURISH Center leads with the tenet that high-quality arts engagement experiences catalyze human interactions crucial to *social wellness*. By prioritizing meaningful, culturally sustainable, local definitions of value beyond conventional clinical measures and spaces, ***social wellness radically reframes “social determinants of health” toward community-strengthening practices that underscore the values—and value—of arts and humanities-centered work:*** including equity, access, belonging, intergenerativity, and justice. Developing the vision funded by a SSHRC Partnership Development and a New Frontiers in Research Fund grant (both awarded in 2022), The FLOURISH Centre will house an intentionally diverse collective of research faculty; highly-qualified personnel (including postdoctoral fellows); student training and mentorship opportunities (the “Learning Academy”); annually invited speakers and scholars/artists/activists (ScholArtiVists)-in-residence; and an active policy development arm, to enable the implementation of interdisciplinary arts-wellness initiatives for the public. The FLOURISH Centre will further benefit health and social services, the arts and culture sector, and Canadian society by being **the first of its kind in the country to be dedicated to research, training, and advocacy for community-engaged arts as a method for social wellness.**

Leading with Toronto’s distinctive arts-and culture-sector assets, we aim to assist the growth of “self-healing communities” by inspiring a culture of social wellness through the arts. In proposing this EDU-C, **our goal is to establish a robust theoretical and applied evidence base for integrating arts practices into Canadian health and social care services.** Layering research, learning and training opportunities, community engagement, and the embedding of community-arts-wellness practitioners, our mission is for the FLOURISH Centre to contribute to raising UTSC’s public profile as a leading research university in arts- and -community-led scholarship addressing health and social justice in Canada and across the globe.

At UTSC, a concentration of 1) radically interdisciplinary expertise (in arts, humanities, social sciences, healthcare, education, and policy); 2) robust, proven community partnerships situated in Canada’s largest urban centre, with special focus on the historically underserved east end of Toronto; and 3) multidisciplinary commitment to *arts engagement across the lifecourse* uniquely equips us to address this vital, timely challenge. The University of Toronto Scarborough will be the Lead Division for FLOURISH Centre; The UTSC Vice-Principal Academic and Dean will assume active administrative and budgetary responsibility for this Centre. Dr. Andrea Charise (Associate Professor and Associate Chair-Research, Health and Society, UTSC) will serve as Director and will be responsible for the overall administrative and financial operations of the Centre. The Department of Health & Society, currently home to Canada’s first Health Humanities Humanities undergraduate Minor, will host the FLOURISH Centre at UTSC.

Importantly, the foundational mandate, research, and training practices of FLOURISH Centre are activated by core elements of UTSC’s strategic plan *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*. **Our Centre incorporates each of the five strategic priorities within the UTSC strategic plan and is led by its vision, mission and values**, such as relational accountability, shared leadership, reciprocity, and inclusivity. The FLOURISH Centre incorporates Strategic Direction 4.2, which is grounded in building robust collaborative and mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations, colleagues, students, alumni, which will increase opportunities for experiential learning, and centre equity, diversity, inclusivity, and Indigenization on and off campus. In alignment with Strategic Direction 5.1, FLOURISH will “foster a culture of empathetic, transparent, and shared leadership to enhance participatory decision-making” (p.45) and support emerging talent, particularly through our “Learning Academy.” FLOURISH also significantly contributes to Priority 2 (Scholarly Prominence in Established and Emerging Areas) by strengthening team-based, “interdisciplinary engagement across campus and with the wider community” (p.28) by cultivating varied forms of knowledge dissemination that cross-cut arts and policy realm.

Furthermore, by contributing innovative approaches to wellbeing relevant to the soon-to-be established Institute for Integrated Health Research (IHR), the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH), and the forthcoming Cultural Innovation District (CID), the Centre will evolve synergies with IHR, SAMIH, and CID by expanding the methodological and theoretical understandings of health, well-being, and resilient communities via social wellness through the arts.

2. RATIONALE

a) Background: What is Arts-Engaged Social Wellness?

Social science and humanities research shows that while biomedical interventions are appropriate for addressing disease symptoms [1], they rarely address social relationships and the “global judgments of life satisfaction” that define *wellness* [2-4]. While major agencies like the World Health Organization recognize that health is “not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” [5], concepts of *wellness* explicitly integrate individual *and* collective dimensions like “the degree and quality of interactions with others, the community, and nature” [6] that “enable each of us to achieve...our maximum potential” [7]. A host of conditions for living—older age; disabilities; or care relationships enabled by chronic conditions, to name just a few—may be perceived as inconsistent with “health” conventionally defined [8]. Yet, under the right conditions, such realities may not prevent someone from living in a state of wellness.

As an approach, arts engagement expands conventional clinical health “outcomes” [29] to include enhanced social relationality [30], which strengthens communities, alleviates isolation, adds resiliency, centers community knowledge and facilitates outcomes often associated with “social returns on investment” [25-28, 31]. As of 2023, growing evidence supports arts engagement as a preventive health measure [26] and a health- and social-care cost-saving initiative [9]. **Access to arts engagement therefore marks a fundamentally distinct vision of what a culturally-sustaining vision of wellness involves, especially for equity-deserving communities** with legacies of harm and erasure by social and educational institutions [80].

Moreover, especially in the ongoing pandemic context, the wellness of artists themselves has been critically overlooked; little is known or understood of their roles in supporting social wellness in community spaces [58]. Our EDU-C formally develops the radically interdisciplinary (but often institutionally siloed) expertise of arts practitioners, community partners, policy makers, health professionals, and implementation scientists, to investigate how community-based arts practices can facilitate access to social wellness.

b) The FLOURISH Centre: A Unique Niche and Need

Our team is intentional regarding the arts- and humanities-focused framing of *social wellness* (contrasting health-sector led “arts in health” “interventions”), as a new approach to “increas[ing] our collective understanding of individuals and societies” [59]. Our topic is a timely study of the arts and humanities’ role in innovating solutions to contemporary societal challenges and the strategic need to develop networks and tools accessible to non-academic audiences regarding arts’ relationship to social wellness. We take a distinctive approach to realizing the United Nations’ *Sustainability Development Goals* (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>), “Good Health and Wellbeing” (SDG #3) (as featured in UTSC’s publication addressing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, 2023). **By focusing on the vast and understudied role of arts engagement as a method for social wellness, our Centre will create a new, locally and globally applicable, evidence base of method, theories, and typologies of wellness through arts engagement.**

In addition to being located amidst Toronto’s extensive arts resources, UTSC is home to Canada’s first postsecondary program in Health Humanities (launched in 2017). **The time is right to leverage this undergraduate milestone into innovative graduate and postgraduate training opportunities** (e.g., a Graduate Certificate in *Critical Methods for Community Arts and Social Wellness*), thus developing this campus’s graduate presence and leadership in the next generation of arts-based, community-engaged scholars. Looking ahead, The FLOURISH Centre aims to expand our current innovative and effective SSHRC-funded trainee program to develop a collaborative specialization program at the PhD level which will involve cross-disciplinary supervision by our large network of Centre-affiliated faculty. With the establishment of a formal EDU-C, UTSC is poised to become a fully integrated “one stop shop” for distinctive undergraduate education, innovative graduate training, and top-tier faculty recruitment in creative community engaged arts and wellness.

There are three additional reasons why The FLOURISH Centre will provide a unique niche at UTSC that cannot be accomplished through current administrative structures. First, the *novelty* of our proposal has the immediate potential to elevate U of T’s national and international profile; by naming a large, arts-led project an EDU-C we can reset the funding landscape for arts and humanities research in the Canadian academic setting. **This is the moment to make a bold, consequential commitment to establish UofT as a world leader in establishing how arts and humanities comprise a key part of pandemic survival.**

Second, our *scale*—involving multiple disciplines and faculties across U of T’s tri-campus—makes this Centre unprecedented in the Canadian postsecondary research landscape. Our multi-generational collective of world-class colleagues (spanning arts, humanities, social sciences, healthcare, education, and policy) has already proven our readiness to realize these objectives

based on two highly successful ISI-funded ideation workshops and three years of funding as a Cluster of Scholarly Prominence. **At no other Canadian university is there the opportunity to meaningfully engage via strong institutional infrastructure the multiple disciplines needed to address arts engagement as a method for social wellness.** Our focus on arts-wellness aligns with at least four aspects of UofT's broader Strategic Research Plan: PROMOTE: Healthy People, Healthy Communities, and a Healthy World; ENGAGE: Language, Culture, Art, and Values; BUILD: Community and Livable Societies; and, in light of our commitment to green, low-carbon practices, SUSTAIN: Societies, the Environment, and Natural Resources (p.1).

Finally, our team's **established, formal partnerships with local communities** means our proposed Centre exemplifies U of T's institutional commitment to supporting innovative research and training programming. The Flourish Cluster was created *a priori* with a mandate of anti-racism, access, equity, diversity, and inclusion. In countries where arts-wellness work is already normalized as part of health and social policy, researchers, educators, and policy-makers have found themselves in the position of "retro-fitting" their findings to respond to the needs of globalized, racialized, and equity-deserving communities who are in need of, and often superbly well-versed in, the value of the arts as a method for social wellness. Our distinct advantage is clear: **we establish the FLOURISH Centre from an integrated EDI-consciousness inseparable from the city-community where we ground our work and mandate.**

c) Departmental Contributions and Benefits

The Department of Health & Society, currently home to Canada's first Health Humanities undergraduate Minor, will host the FLOURISH Center, in close partnership and alongside the Department of Arts, Culture, Media (ACM).

We envision FLOURISH Centre to have a strong connection to (and ideally, physical space within) SAMIH and the forthcoming Arts Building Project (i.e., LAMP). Other units from across the University that may be associated with FLOURISH Centre via the involvement of individual faculty from UTSC, include: Anthropology, Creative Writing, Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) Office. On a tri-campus level, involvement in The FLOURISH Centre is expected from the following Departments and Units: Medicine, Nursing, Geography, OISE, Music and Health Science, Biomedical Communications; Dalla Lana School of Public Health, as well as Departments represented in our proposed membership list (see below).

The FLOURISH Centre would complement and extend the mandates of the following centres/institutes at UTSC and the University of Toronto campus network more broadly: Institute for Inclusive Health and Wellbeing; Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies; Global Disability Studies (UTSC), Bonham Centre for Sexuality and Diversity Studies; Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, Bloorview Research Institute; School of Cities; the Creative Works Studio; Jackman Humanities Institute; Wilson Center.

d) National Role and Comparables

We have included a recent landscape analysis of comparable initiatives below (see Appendix A), ranging from local opportunities and current initiatives to a national and global view of comparable arts-wellness work. Based on this landscape analysis it is clear that UTSC and U of

T more broadly has the potential to become a leader in the Canadian postsecondary landscape and beyond. While formal arts-wellness policies have international precedent, **the potential for arts engagement to address systemic barriers in health, wellness, and social equity measures remains underexplored in Canada** [48,49]. One significant outcome of the FLOURISH Centre will involve implementing new resources, community practice spaces, and staff supports that resonate with “arts-on-prescription”. The inequitable, divergent lived realities of the COVID-19 pandemic for racialized, disabled, and socioeconomically marginalized communities [38-9] confirm the need for a concerted arts-wellness strategy in Canada.

3. RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC GOALS

a) Overview: Research Goals and Objectives

Our purpose as an EDU-C is to establish a robust theoretical and practical evidence base for integrating arts and creative practices into Canadian social care services. We will do so through rigorous study of a wide range of community arts practices to generate new knowledge of how arts engagement can improve health equity, address epistemological injustices, and decolonize conventional health and social services. To this end, the FLOURISH Centre will support research that focuses on the following **three research areas**:

1. **Community-Arts-Wellness Research and Methods:** We will conceptualize the problems and opportunities regarding arts-based research and practice, and develop methodological approaches unique to the arts to transform scholarly understanding of the societal benefits of art engagement.
2. **Arts Advocacy:** We will consider advocacy as a research question and develop advocacy methods for arts’ value on its own terms. Key to this research area is the centralization of Indigenous and Black voices already leading the charge for arts and wellness in policy formation, education/training, research, and community engagement.
3. **Community-Arts-Wellness Implementation and Policy Development:** We will develop a framework of key mandate actions and establish a taxonomy of arts-wellness in Canada. We will do so without imposing on existing resourcing for either arts or culture.

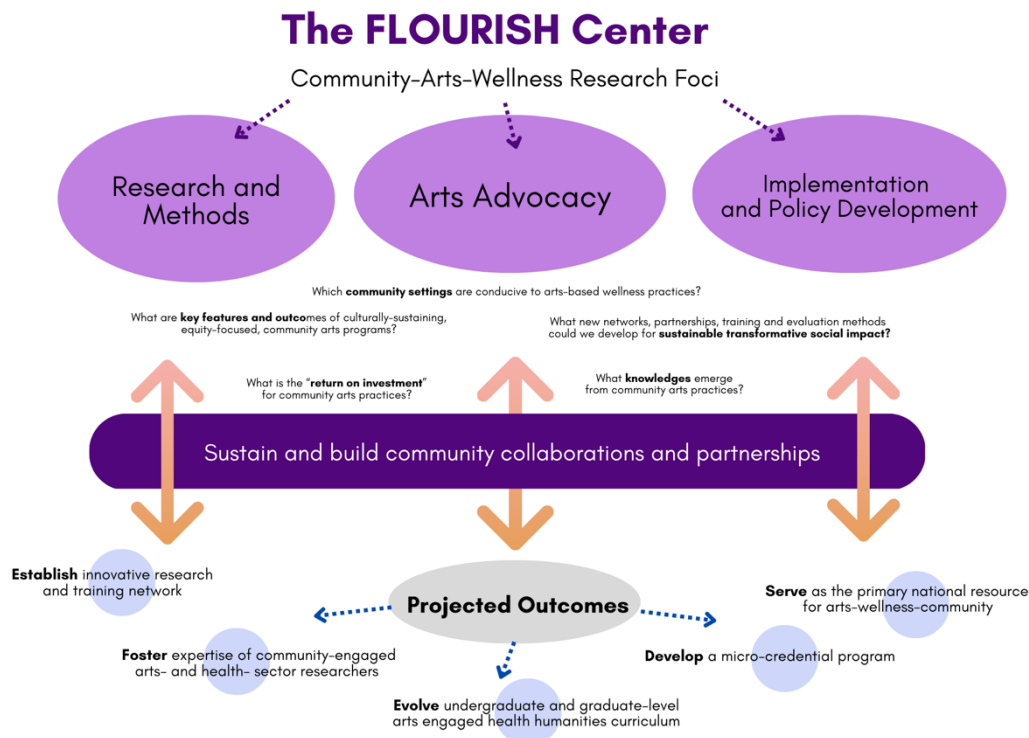


Figure 1. FLOURISH Research Foci and Projected Outcomes

Through work motivated by the research areas, goals, and questions above, over the next five years, The FLOURISH Centre's projected outcomes include:

- **Establish an innovative research and training network** linking local, national, and international initiatives studying social wellness via arts-based and -informed methods;
- **Foster expertise of community-engaged, arts- and health- sector researchers** at various career stages to develop models of arts-based research methods, assessment, and postsecondary training;
- **Support the evolution of undergraduate and graduate-level arts engaged health humanities curriculum** (e.g. through the current Health Humanities Minor; developing a undergraduate and graduate certificate program focused on pedagogy and methodology—"Certificate in Critical Methods for Community Arts and Social Wellness"), perhaps connected to the new certificate programs being created with SAMIH;
- **Develop a micro-credential program (12 weeks)** with an eye to integrating a bridge Transition Year Program (TYP) to embed reciprocal community-centered programming;
- **Expand interactive scholarly activities at UTSC including** a speaker series; annual conference, symposia and ScholArtiVists-in residence; performances and interactive exhibits; and public-facing knowledge mobilization (e.g. podcasts, op-eds, white papers);
- **Serve as the primary national resource for public and media inquiries** regarding arts engaged wellness on a local and global scale;
- **Sustain and build community collaborations and partnerships** established with the *FLOURISH Cluster* that enable actionable research to inform policy across sectors, using evidence to demonstrate the impact of community on social wellness outcomes.

b) Expected Contribution to Knowledge

Our proposed community-university partnership offers a novel, arts-led approach to exploring community flourishing in at least five key ways, by:

1. **Centering arts participation** as a method for social wellness in Canadian contexts;
2. **Identifying the specific typologies of wellness** engendered by arts participation, particularly in historically underserved communities.
3. **Exploring the roles of Canadian artists** in arts-for-social-wellness processes, including cultural production, providing services and programs to individuals and communities, recognition/value artists receive for this work (i.e., financial).
4. **Testing new methodologies/methods of assessment** for generating evidence of arts-engagements' role in enhancing post-pandemic wellness equity (in-person and virtual).
5. **Implementing a structural blueprint** for equity, diversity, and inclusion in arts-wellness-community research design and process.

c) Theoretical and Methodological Overview

Our Centre's partnership model is strongly guided by **community-engaged, participatory action research (PAR) methodology**. In keeping with PAR principles, we will co-design all aspects of this initiative with community partners. We will also rely on a determinant **implementation science framework** to identify barriers to and affordances of participating in arts-based initiatives, at both organizational and individual levels. Understanding implementation and key outcomes—such as adoption, acceptability, fidelity, and feasibility [65]—will be critical

to future scalability and dissemination of arts-led approaches to social wellness.

d) Expected Outputs

Our overarching expected outcomes include: 1) the development of enhanced curriculum and teaching materials, 2) enriched public discourse, 3) improved public policies and access to arts for wellness programs for diverse publics, 4) improved resources, infrastructure & economic stability for artists and arts/culture organizations, and 5) training the next generation of researchers and practitioners across disciplines, including from the arts, humanities, social sciences, and related social services.

- 1. Enhanced curriculum/teaching/pedagogy.** The FLOURISH Centre will produce practitioner-scholar arts for social wellness-oriented *workshops, open studio, and pedagogical tools*. Practitioner-participants will engage in cross-sectoral learning. A collaborative edited collection on arts-for-wellness will be developed for classroom use.
- 2. Enriched public discourse.** With the pandemic highlighting the arts as one way to advance health equity, mitigate mental health challenges, and tackle isolation, our team will engage in public conversations through an annual *Community-Academic Symposium for Arts for Social Wellness*.
- 3. Improved policy across arts, culture, education sectors.** Policy will be improved via *cross- and inter-sectoral policy white papers* mobilizing arts for wellness research findings with structural and programmatic recommendations across domains.
- 4. Improved public access to arts-wellness programs.** Access to arts for social wellness programs will be increased by creating GIS “*asset maps*” which will identify existing programs and integrate local referral networks. Mobilizing GIS mapping in this way will contribute to infrastructure maturation, improve inter-sectoral cooperation, and identify available structural supports for artists and arts/cultural organizations across Canada.
- 5. Improved structural stability for artists & arts/cultural organizations.** Recommendations and plans will be co-constructed with artists and arts/cultural organizations to best support the wellbeing and resource stability of artists themselves, as well as advocate for the value of the arts. We will also work with municipal, provincial, and national funding bodies (e.g., Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts) to build better networks across sectors, diversify the artist community, and deepen leadership capacity in decision-making circles, like Craft Ontario, a confirmed partner.

Beyond these outcomes, our hope is that our findings and staged work with community partners will be integrated into **local social services referral networks overseen by the new Canadian Institute for Social Prescribing**, which currently does not provide such referrals.

e) Relevance for Partner Organizations

Each of our current community partners has a strong track record of promoting the inclusion of artists and artistic methods in social activities where arts thinking and imagination is needed: be it in the community arts context (*Jumblies, MABELLEArts*) or in advocating for more equitable services provision for racialized and minoritized communities (*TAIBU, Scarborough Arts*). Our interest in developing innovative, responsive evaluation methods that respect the epistemological particularities of arts-based work is vitally relevant to our partners, many of whom are challenged by funding and donor “impact reporting” that rarely captures the transformative, but

often “ineffable”, outcomes of arts engagement. As we look to potential partners’ involvement, we share an interest in finding answers that move policy, like: *What evidence, ways of knowing, sites of production, and leadership models does community-engaged arts engagement offer?*

Over the past three years (2020-23) the *Flourish Cluster* has cultivated community collaborations with students and faculty members. These collaborations are critical to the FLOURISH Centre. The contributions and insights of our community partners culminated in a bi-annual knowledge translation (KT) event which demonstrates the depth and breadth of their expertise and intellectual leadership across a range of fields and artistic genres.

Community partners have expressed an explicit interest in capacity-building and rooting their practice in evidence-based decision-making by understanding their impact on communities through arts interventions. **Proposed solutions include our development of "Certificate in Critical Methods for Community Arts and Social Wellness"**, as well as a micro-credential program (12 weeks) open to community partners to enhance capacity. Collaborations between community partners, local artists, and faculty researchers will focus on questions of immediate relevance to the communities served by our partners. Knowledge gleaned through FLOURISH Centre’s partnerships will be returned to the community partners for consideration in their strategy development, community relations, programs and services, and growth as culturally sustaining organizations. Each of these organizations is poised to bring new and evidence-based ideas and strategies to the larger sectors of which they are a part. Centre funding will help offset costs for community partners engaging university-based trainees in their work.

f) Academic Life: The FLOURISH “Learning Academy”

The FLOURISH Centre will provide a unique and robust professional development training and mentorship curriculum for under/graduate and postdoctoral students through our "**Learning Academy**", now in its third year of operation. Because training and mentoring are critical parts of the socialization of students and emerging scholars into interdisciplinary arts-based work, the Learning Academy will function as part professional development and part-mentoring program. The Academy will aid in the training of highly-qualified personnel with expertise in community arts engaged practices, research methods, evaluation, and impact reporting.

The FLOURISH Centre will provide **yearly training for six (6) graduate research assistants in arts and humanities-related research practices**: managing and organizing qualitative and quantitative data; and multi-sited, international, mixed methods, and multi-modal research. They will learn about participant observation and field note-taking; the use of digital video in research (using Final Cut Pro), and analyzing digital data; interviewing; liaising with schools and community organizations; transcribing; editing; literature reviewing; thematic mapping; qualitative textual and video data analyses using NVivo software; methods of contextualization; site and participant profiles; member checks for verification; data management and synthesizing. They will learn how to develop, pilot, and validate a quantitative survey and to analyse data using SPSS software. They will also learn about the significance of theory, culturally relevant histories and knowledges, and their influence on research methodologies through regular project meetings and presentations. They will gain valuable academic work experience via immersion in all aspects of the research from data collection and analysis through writing and publishing, presenting at scholarly and professional conferences as well as at schools, and community

organizations. They will also help curate the FLOURISH Centre’ digital advocacy archive (see www.flourishcollective.ca).

The Learning Academy curriculum will be coordinated by The Associate Director in collaboration with the students. Graduate assistants will have specific engagement with the Learning Academy built into their duties and responsibilities. Thus, even with **experiential learning through fieldwork, students also benefit from peer-to-peer sharing, cohort development experiences, and networking with a broader set of researchers, practitioners, subject matter experts, and Indigenous Elders**. We will emphasize a diverse cadre of speakers to discuss EDI issues in research, with a focus on **equity-in-practice**. Another key component of the Learning Academy will be an opportunity for student participants from underrepresented groups to engage in closed conversations that allow them to process their lived experiences as emerging and early career scholars. This will run parallel to a group discussion for those with majoritarian identities to discuss allyship and advocacy. Such a parallel learning experience is crucial to ensuring that the Centre’s trainee experience **optimizes opportunities for persistence and retention in academia**.

Looking ahead, we expect that the Learning Academy will further inform the development of our proposed Graduate Certificate in “Critical Methods for Community Arts and Social Wellness”, as well as our micro-credential program open to community partners to enhance capacity.

g) Policy-related Knowledge Mobilization

A timely policy window has appeared with the recent pilot of *social prescribing*: a social care model that describes “a structured way of referring people to a range of local, non-clinical services” [45] such as housing support and food security [46, 47]. In Ontario, the *Alliance for Healthier Communities* has been piloting a social prescribing project over the last year called *Rx: Community*, operating in 11 community health centres. Building on the success of this pilot, the province is able to install its first social prescribing “link workers” (referral agents who match users with in-community services). In the UK, this sub-field of social prescribing is known as “arts on prescription.” No such thing yet exists in Canada; however, we see real possibility of our findings enhancing this emergent policy paradigm by making the value of the arts as a method of social wellness legible to community and care services. We will produce briefing notes, practice guidelines, and educational materials focused on arts and equity as an element of social prescription, geared toward mainstream healthcare providers. This might also involve the future development of Canadian Medical Association (CMA) credited workshops to entice professional development by medical and health professional staff.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO INDIGENIZATION, EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Our project prioritizes social wellness as a community-strengthening practice rooted in local and collective definitions of value. Equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) considerations will inform the full extent of our ambition. All Centre activities and practices will be shaped by such critical perspectives.

Our team is intentionally composed of folks with a range of racial, gender, ethnic, national

origin and age identities. Each of us has worked meaningfully within our communities as embedded and critically- reflexive researchers, with continued commitments to social justice: particularly concerning anti-Black racism, and discrimination. Our team is well-versed in the Ontario Human Rights Code, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, and similar aspects of identity. Recognizing that the work of EDI is ongoing and demands vulnerability, we will leverage institutional resources and supports that allow us to understand how disability, gender, sexuality, class, race, ethnicity, language, age dynamically intersect and influence the lived experiences of participants, as well as educational policy, programs, and initiatives.

Our research approach includes: (1) Routinely identifying the gaps in team composition through optional collection of self-identified identity factors of all team members, (2) Periodical evaluation of the differential experiences between women, men, and other gender diverse peoples involved in this project (SBA+ best practice), and (3) using affirmative recruitment processes i.e., use of nongendered, inclusive and unbiased language in job postings, diversifying outreach of available positions, prioritizing and recognizing the importance of lived experience in shaping the knowledge mobilization and translation practices, and preferential hiring of underrepresented groups in pools of qualified candidates (as per institutional policies).

a) Indigenization

The FLOURISH Centre is committed to supporting Indigenous ways of knowing, expertise, and practices related to arts engagement and social wellness. The Centre is also committed to developing relationships with Indigenous initiatives at UTSC, the tri-campus, and within our communities of practice. Our goal is to be intentional and radically open to learning and putting into praxis anti-colonial and decolonizing methodologies relating to our Centre's work. Should our proposal be successful, a first step would be to work with UTSC's Indigenous Elders/Elders-in-Residence and Knowledge Keepers and UTSC's Indigenous House (<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/home/indigenous-house>) to infuse our research and programming with stories that speak to, and from, diverse Indigenous experiences. Through early consultations, Center visits, and relationship-building, we are prepared to develop meaningful collaborations with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to learn and shape the unfolding of this EDU-C's vision and mandate.

b) Supporting Black and Indigenous Equity and Belonging

Within a broader framework of practices committed to upholding and expanding FLOURISH's commitments to EDI, our Centre seeks to enact the systemic-level recommendations that have been proposed by initiatives that directly address the effects of anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racisms including The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report, Answering the Call, Wecheehetowin: Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2017), UTSC's Anti-Black Racism & Black Inclusion Advisory Committee, and the University of Toronto's Anti-Black Racism Task Force Report (2021). Our research design approach will reflect disaggregation by collecting self-reported data from project participants on a range of identity factors including but not limited to gender identity and gender expression, sexuality, race and ethnicity, national origin and citizenship, age, disability, etc. Recruitment will consider interruptions, opportunity access, and similar considerations that are especially significant when aiming to increase recruitment

candidates from equity-deserving groups. Research/recruitment decisions will be made by diversely composed (sub)committees.

In addition to conducting research and recruitment in keeping with our institution's inclusive hiring principles (see <https://people.utoronto.ca/careers/inclusive-recruitment/>), we expect that U of T's Black Research Network will be a valuable resource to support Black scholarship within the Centre. Faculty members will be expected to conduct recruitment of trainees in keeping with these best practices, and to provide or facilitate connections with relevant campus and community support networks. Finally, the Centre will position accountability, anti-racism, and accessibility at the core of our subprojects and broader Centre mandate. EDI matters will be a dedicated agenda item for team meetings, and a mandatory reporting item on annual subproject reports and all project outputs.

c) Sustainability

Leading with and learning from the assets of our community partners, the FLOURISH Centre will support the growth of “self-healing communities” by promoting an intergenerational culture of arts-based wellness locally, provincially, and (inter)nationally. The Centre is poised to build on the financially, culturally, professionally, and relationally sustainable infrastructure developed through operating as a Cluster of Scholarly Prominence. *The Flourish Cluster (2020-23)* cultivated impactful collaborative relationships and partnerships, created robust interdisciplinary and tri-campus networks, ran an innovative training program, and established collective workflows. In addition to **pursuing major research grants** (e.g., SSHRC Insight and Partnership Grants) the Centre will make use of the strategic **fiscally sustainable programming** established by the *Flourish Cluster* by prioritizing digital bi-weekly meetings, events, and workshops over in-person events when appropriate. Our Learning Academy, which is grounded in inter-sectorial knowledge-sharing and creation, includes peer-to-peer, mentorship-to-trainee, and community-to-academic programming aimed at equipping emerging scholars, particularly those from underserved communities, with needed professional development resources. FLOURISH is proud of its track record of financial, environmental, and relational sustainability involving our research, training, and community activities.

5. ASSESSMENT

Measuring and establishing “impact” and “assessment” in the arts and humanities presents significant strategic challenges. It is inappropriate to adopt one model for all disciplines or to use standard quantitative measures. As colleagues at Queen’s University Belfast write, “If we wish to encourage more interdisciplinary work, it is important to have clear metrics for different disciplines that actually capture the richness of the research... SSH and STEM are increasingly expected to work together but without adequate systems and toolsets.”

These issues, well-established by arts- and humanities-led scholarly initiatives in the UK, Europe, and beyond, inform our identification of key performance metrics; short, mid, and long-range targets; and evaluation approaches to be implemented during the five-year term of The Centre. In short: ***How do we articulate and measure values that capture impact in terms of social change?*** To this end, assessment metrics will require a mix of different tools: indicators (including “traditional” academic outputs such as data, peer reviewed publications, creative

assets, external funding, etc.), but also narratives, testimonials, surveys and/or case studies that would be more appropriate to measure impact beyond academia.

In line with normal practice, the Center will be subject to periodic review (every 5 years) commissioned by the OVPRI of UTSC, with the first review scheduled by 2028-29. The review will assess the EDU's sustainability, performance, and achievements relative to the goals set out at its establishment. A possible outcome of the review may include closure of the Centre.

We are proposing the following items as metrics to evaluate the success of the Center annually, as well as at the midterm and conclusion of the 5-year term:

1. Suggested Assessment Metrics

a) Diversified Research Outputs

- In addition to traditional research outputs (peer-reviewed articles, monographs, edited collections, etc), there is an important arts- and humanities-led goal to going beyond these traditional outputs. The long-term perspective would be to move towards an overall taxonomy of research outputs, with two main categories: Textual forms (books, translations, catalogues, editions); and non-textual forms (exhibitions, artifacts, performances, digital output (software, digital models etc.);
- Digital Humanities initiatives will likely be a valuable resource as we develop The FLOURISH Centre website as a collections-and-exhibits style resource hub for community-arts-wellness research and initiatives;
- Enhanced success for individual faculty in tri council and internal competition;
- Securing large, external, project-level and operational grants (e.g., SSHRC Partnership).

b) Teaching as Impact

- Development of complementary undergraduate offerings (to support and expand current Health Humanities Minor Program);
- Development of graduate certificate in “Critical Methods in Community Arts and Social Wellness” (tentative title).

c) Recruitment, Retention, and Capacity-Building

- Retention should be a metric of impact and value, including longer-term student involvement as well as HQP and faculty engagement in regular Center activities;
- Tracking demographics and pathways (development from undergraduate to grad, etc.);
- Development of a bridge (“transitional year”) program;
- Growth of arts-based methods and a climate of ABR institutionally.

d) Strengthened Community Partnerships and Collaborations

- A micro-credential program (12 weeks) open to community partners to enhance capacity;
- Increased community-academic partnerships, engagements, and research.

e) Strengthened Policy

- Design and implement an accountability structure (anti-racism, anti-sexism);
- Strengthening policy (community-campus orientations for state of the field meeting) baked into commitments once every 2-3 years.

f) Consultations and National Presence

- Develop national instruments/precedents for research methods and partnership approaches.

2. 5-year Evaluation Approach

a) Annual:

- Executive publishable summary, that includes short summary of the major achievements and impact re: members's grants, research activities, new relevant courses, supervisions, etc.
- Advisory and Community Advisory committee reports and feedback
- Research Achievements and Knowledge Mobilization activity, including education and training (e.g., Courses or curricula established or facilitated)
- Financial updates and summary, including: short description of the use of funds and any major deviations or changes to the budget; new grants (external and internal) received by Center and members; research partnerships & collaborations with external institutions; updates to long term financial planning (if relevant)
- Links to institutional strategic initiatives and priorities (e.g., how the FLOURISH Centre is building a network of internal and external partners and how it contributes to the implementation of strategic initiatives and priorities (at UofT and beyond); success stories on how these partnerships have led or are leading to significant impact beyond academia)
- EDI Practices and Outcomes: description of intentional measures and actions implemented to support Indigenization, EDI, and Sustainability and why they are important and necessary (examples: promote diversity in team composition and trainee recruitment; foster an equitable, inclusive and accessible research work environment; highlight diversity and equity in mentoring, training and access to development opportunities)

b) Midterm and Term-end. In addition to the regular annually reported points above, criteria for renewal may include:

- an external review of the achievements of the institute/centre during the initial/current period;
 - an updated rationale, research & academic goals, membership that propose further developments in comparison to the initial/current period;
 - Updated expected contributions to the UTSC Strategic Plan and UTSC's commitments related to Indigenization, EDI and Sustainability;
 - An updated projection of resources and expenditures that include financial sustainability initiatives during the initial/current period;
 - An updated consultation of stakeholders, including community members and partners;
 - Endorsement from affiliated UTSC Departments.
-

6. LIST OF PROPOSED MEMBERS

In light of the increased complexity and workload associated with responsible university-community engaged research, we are proposing a Director/Associate Directorship model of collective leadership. Associate Directorships will report to the Director and be responsible for specific portfolios associated with EDU-C activity, in keeping with other comparable models at the University of Toronto (e.g., The Wilson Center: <https://thewilsoncentre.ca/>).

Director

- Andrea Charise, Associate Professor and Associate Chair-Research, Dept. Health and Society, UTSC (andrea.charise@utoronto.ca)

Associate Director

- Dirk J. Rodricks, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning (CTL), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)

For all membership categories below, an individual who believes that they meet the criteria and will be able to fulfill the expectations thereof may submit an application (consisting of a CV and brief rationale of less than two pages) to the Director and Associate Director requesting appointment in that category.

Centre Researchers (UTSC and UofT-affiliated)

Centre Researchers will play an integral role in advancing the academic mission of the FLOURISH Centre. The expectation is that Scientists will lead programs of research that advance knowledge relevant to arts-wellness-community and will contribute substantially to teaching initiatives that arise from the Centre's activities. Will include 'Portfolio Coordinators' for: Community Engagement; Curriculum and Learning; and Policy and Implementation (*personnel TBD upon approval*). Expectations will include regular participation in Research Team meetings, career mentoring, fostering and supporting the academic advancement of arts-wellness-community, and sharing in the administrative responsibilities related to the functioning of the Centre.

- Mark Campbell, Assistant Professor, Arts Culture Media (UTSC)
- Allison Crawford MD, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Director, Institute for Inclusive Health and Wellbeing (UTSC)
- Naheed Dosani MD, lead physician of the Palliative Education and Care for the Homeless (PEACH), University Health Network
- Obidi Ezezika, Dept. Health and Society (UTSC) and Assistant Professor, University of Western Ontario
- Barry Freeman, Associate Professor, Arts Culture Media (UTSC)
- Julia Gray, Assistant Professor, Dept. Health and Society (UTSC)
- Cassandra Hartblay, Assistant Professor, Dept. Health and Society (UTSC) and Director, Center for Global Disability Studies (CGDS)
- benjamin lee hicks, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept. Health and Society (UTSC)
- Elliot Leffler, Assistant Professor, Arts Culture Media (UTSC)
- Roger Mantie, Associate Professor, Arts Culture Media (UTSC)
- Kate Mulligan, Assistant Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Senior

Director, Canadian Institute for Social Prescribing (CISP).

- Aparna Nair, Assistant Professor, Dept. Health and Society (UTSC)
- Janet Parsons, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Toronto
- Nikki Woods, Scientist & Associate Director of Operations/UHN - The Wilson Centre

Research and Creative Associates

Research Associates and/or Creative Associates are thought leaders who contribute in important ways, through their words, ideas, creative outputs, advocacy, and/or presence, to the FLOURISH Centre's mission and purpose. A FLOURISH Center Research and/or Creative Associate may be located anywhere in the world and need not be affiliated with Toronto-based institutions such as UTSC or the University of Toronto.

- Jeff Gagnon, Postdoctoral Fellow, Arts Culture Media (UTSC)
- Danny Gomes, Creative Associate
- Julia Gruson-Wood, Research Associate, UTSC VPRI
- Suvetha Krishnapillai, Research Associate and Project Manager, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Celeste Pang, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto; Senior Research Officer, Egale Canada
- Syrus Marcus Ware, Assistant Professor, School of the Arts, McMaster University
- Mimi Khuc, Lecturer, Georgetown University (USA)
- Nehal El-Hadi, Editor, *Studio Magazine*

General Members

General membership is available to faculty, staff, and learners affiliated with University of Toronto or within the greater Toronto area who have demonstrated interest in arts-wellness-community research, teaching and learning, and policy. General membership is also offered to alumni of the FLOURISH Learning Academy and related academic programs would not otherwise hold membership in another category.

- Hilary K. Brown, Assistant Professor, Dept. Health and Society (UTSC)
- Clara Juando-Prats, Research Scientist and Assistant Professor, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute (St. Michael's Hospital/ Dalla Lana School of Public Health)
- Amy Clements-Cortes, Assistant Professor, Music and Health Science
- Kathleen Gallagher, Distinguished Professor, OISE and Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies
- Lori Doloff, Associate Professor, Music
- Isabel Fryszberg, Founder, Creative Works Studio, Occupational Therapist and documentary filmmaker
- Brenda Gladstone, Assistant Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health
- Denise Gastaldo, Associate Professor and Director, Nursing / Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research
- Bina John, Assistant Professor, Music
- Pia Kontos, Associate Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health
- M.E. Luka, Assistant Professor, UTSC, ACM/Faculty of Information
- Liz Mansfield, Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

- Stella Ng, Associate Scientist and Director, Faculty Research, The Wilson Faculty of Medicine/ Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute (St. Michael's Hospital)
- Nasim Niknafs, Assistant Professor, Music Education/School of Cities
- Izumi Sakamoto, Associate Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
- Anna Skorzevska MD, Psychiatrist and Director, Faculty of Medicine/Director of the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit at University Health Network.
- Janelle Taylor, Professor, Anthropology
- Daniel Scott Tysdal, Associate Professor, UTSC, Creative Writing
- Lynn Tucker, Associate Professor, UTSC, ACM
- Steven Vande Moortele, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Research, Music Theory and Research
- Shelley Wall, Associate Professor, UTM, Biomedical Communications
- Julie Witt, Coordinator, Integrated Learning Experience (ILE), UTSC, Office of Work Integrated Learning
- Kim Yates, Associate Director, Jackman Humanities Institute

Community Partners (non-academic)

FLOURISH Community Partner status is available to organizations within the greater Toronto area who have demonstrated interest in arts-wellness-community research, teaching and learning, and policy advancement.

- TAIBU Community Health Centre
- Scarborough Arts
- Jumblies Theatre
- MABELLEarts
- Craft Ontario
- Canadian Institute for Social Prescribing (CISP)
- Access Alliance
- Alliance for Healthier Communities
- Egale Canada
- Toronto Urban Health Fund
- Laboratory for Artistic Intelligence
- St James Town Community Corner

7. GOVERNANCE

a) Direction and Operational Structure

Dr. Charise, the Centre Director, will be appointed for a fixed term of not more than five years, renewable once, by the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean of the University of Toronto Scarborough (or designate). The Director will be responsible to the OVPRI for all facets of the Centre including policies, budget, and administrative and financial operation.

The FLOURISH Centre will be supported in terms of administrative issues, including budget and allocation of funds, printing, and publicity by appointed university staff as determined by the OVPRI in consultation with the Director.

The OVPRI, with input from Dr. Charise and participating faculty, will appoint an **Advisory**

Board to provide non-binding advice to the Director. Board members will serve multi-year renewable terms, and they will represent the Centre’s various stakeholders, including representatives from faculty, staff, students, and the community, from all three campuses, and from a range of associated faculties. The appointment of board members from outside the University will not in any way interfere with University control and oversight of the Centre. All operations of the Centre will be conducted in accordance with University policy.

The continual cultivation of **External Partnerships** deepens and extends this proposed Centre’s commitment to the objectives of both the [SSHRC Insight](#) and [Connection](#) Programs. Specifically, our investment in external partnerships seek to “build knowledge and understanding from disciplinary, interdisciplinary and/or cross-sector perspectives” (Insight objective) while “enabl[ing] the multidirectional flow of social sciences and humanities research knowledge among researchers, and across academia and society as a whole, to enhance intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit and impact” (Connection objective).

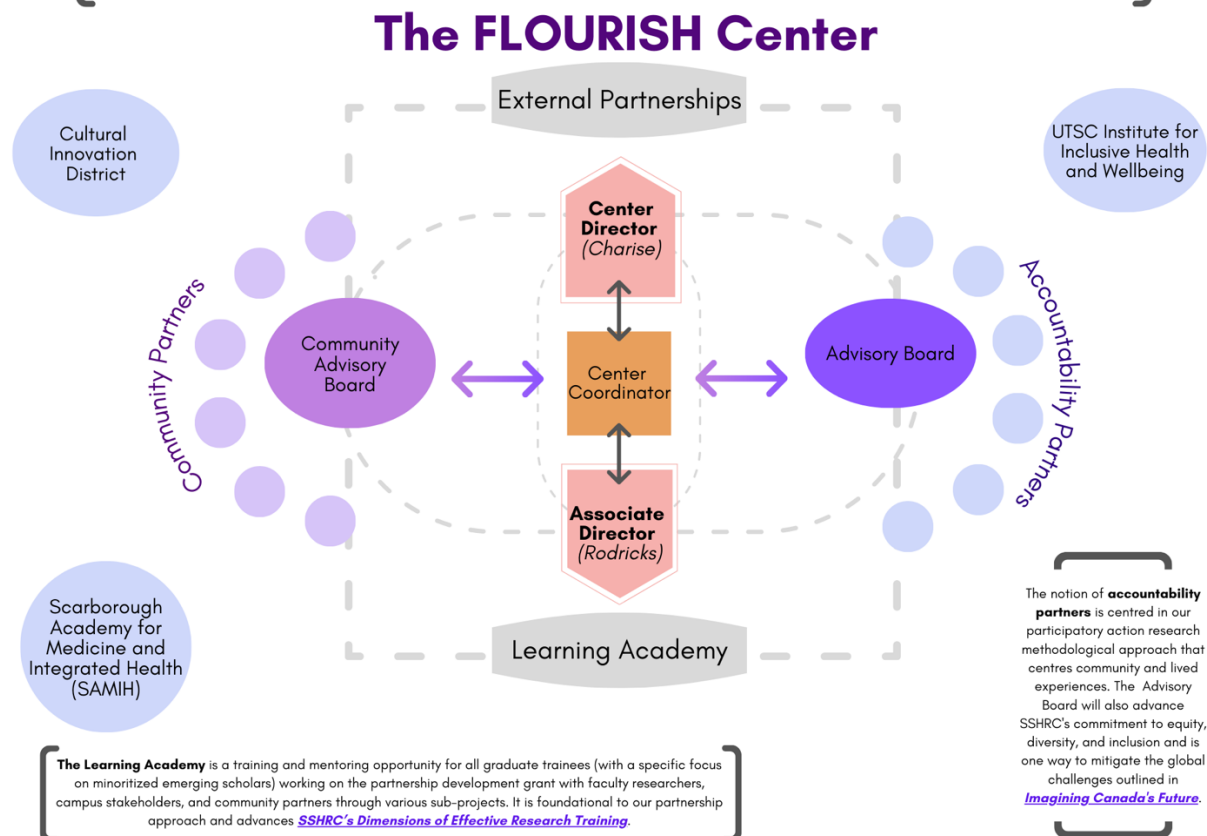


Figure 2. FLOURISH Centre Proposed Governance Structure

The Director and Associate Director(s) will work closely with a Center Coordinator who will: support day-to-day operations for the team; plan and schedule team meetings; and support the Centre’s communication strategy (including management of its website). The Program Manager will liaise with administrative staff at the partner organizations to facilitate transfer of funds, as well as organizing trainee placements at each organization.

Furthermore, the Centre shall maintain a public list of members across the university (e.g., posted on the department website). Affiliated faculty and researchers have no administrative responsibilities to the Centre. Other affiliated persons include Centre fellows (pre- and post-doctoral) and graduate students. Additionally, the long-term collaborations with community organizations in the GTA will also be listed publicly. The Director will also form a **Community**

Advisory Board, composed of community partners. Partners on the Community Advisory Board will meet yearly to review activities, provide critical feedback, and inform future directions. They will receive honoraria for their engagement; the honoraria will come from the Centre's operational budget, supplemented by external grants (as available and appropriate). We will leverage multiple, cross-sectoral frameworks such as Canada's [CARFAC-RAAV Minimum Recommended Fee Schedule](#) [66] and [SPOR](#) [75], and the UK's [Involve](#) [76], to advance meaningful citizen and artist engagement within our work. The Community Advisory Board will meet semi-annually and members will have opportunities to contribute to reports and publications as well as co-present at events, conferences, and exhibitions. CAB members will be compensated for their time commitments, following guidelines and frameworks, as appropriate.

See Figure 2.

b) Potential Challenges and Mitigation Strategies.

Community-based participatory design [68, 69] is embedded within the FLOURISH Centre's research and governance design: an extension of the arts-based methodology/ies we are proposing and the inter-organizational relationships we have been building with our community collaborators over the past 30 months. Given that the focus of the Centre is the role of community-based arts programming in promoting social wellness, our Centre, with the community organizations listed, will bring the needs of residents/community members to the fore. These partners include community arts, health, and social service organizations. This is well-suited to the interdisciplinary and intersectoral nature of the work, and to SSHRC's [Imagining Canada's Future](#)'s global challenges, specifically '[The Arts Transformed](#)'.

One of the biggest challenges to mutually beneficial partnerships (particularly community-campus partnerships) relates to unequal power relations and a history of extractivist practices on the part of researchers [67]. Because of this risk, it is essential that applicant teams engage in recognized best practices for community engagement and participatory research. This includes embedding community engagement principles into our Centre's management structure and ensuring community members are provided with real opportunities to guide the work. It also includes being transparent to pragmatic considerations regarding divergent funding applications, reporting, and calendars between academic and community organizations.

8. FINANCES & RESOURCES

The FLOURISH Center shall, under the authority of the OVPRI, administer a budget to sustain the regular annual activities described below. The Centre will also seek external funding to host postdoctoral fellows, to host visiting international researchers, and to promote other interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations (e.g., via Tri-Council Agency and related funding opportunities).

A sketch of annual expenses and requested finances follows below. See Appendix B for a line-by-line budget.

a) Requested Finances

- 1) **Administrative support staff (.75 FTE, Center Coordinator)** to facilitate the

operations of the EDU-C in collaboration with the director and with the assistance of the RAs. Duties include collecting and compiling application submissions for grants, RA-ships, fellowships; managing event RSVPs; sending publicity emails related to Centre activities, etc.

- 2) **Research support staff (.5 FTE, Senior Research Associate)** to be intrinsically involved in research projects where they contribute, by way of their academic expertise, to the projects directed by the Director or a Principal Investigator. Duties include developing research projects relating to EDU-C mandate, assisting with manuscript and grant writing, publication of research articles and other knowledge mobilization outputs.
- 3) **Scholar-Artist-Activist (ScholArtiVist) in-Residence (\$10,000)**
- 4) **Community Partner and Advisory Board Honoraria (\$6000)**
- 5) **Leadership Honoraria (Director and Associate Directors)**
 - a) Teaching release (1.0 FTE)
 - b) Yearly honoraria (\$2000) either as research stipend or personal remuneration.
 - *Note: these can be (re)allocated on a yearly basis depending on leadership team needs and workload.*
- 6) **Flagship events** (e.g. a semi-annual or periodic public lecture; festival, symposia or conferences) to be planned by the director(s) and core faculty. (**\$3000** to be supplemented by external grants and support from other campus units)
- 7) **Graduate student RA-ships** (two graduate student RA-ships each year to support the work of the center and support graduate student professionalization by developing skills in running an academic research center, such as updating the website, planning and hosting conferences or speakers, publicizing events, serving on grant committees). **Two RAs at 100 hours @ current union rates.**
- 8) **“Seed” grants to affiliated faculty and graduate students to support work on** a topic related to arts-wellness-community (e.g. 10 grants of \$500 toward hosting a visiting speaker, film screening, book launch, etc. annually) on a rolling basis. Special designations will be made for Black and Indigenous-led and/or involved initiatives (**\$10000**)
- 9) **Learning Academy (Graduate) Fellowships** (3x\$5000, to be supplemented by additional grant funding. Three doctoral students funded each academic year to doctoral students writing dissertations on a topic related to arts-wellness-community. Each fellow receives \$5000 stipend, gives a public talk). To be implemented in stages, stepping up to three fellowships per year by the third year of the Centre’s inception. (**\$15,000**)
- 10) **Yearly Materials and art supplies.** Includes: website maintenance. Printing costs for flyers, pamphlets, posters. Office supplies such as pens, markers, paper, folders, etc. To be administered by the Centre’s director and administrative staff. (**\$3000**).

b) Existing budgetary support (external grants)

To supplement The FLOURISH Centre funding and ensure growth and sustainability, several grants have been secured to support Year 1 of the Centre, and beyond:

i) Secured (5)

- **Cluster of Scholarly Prominence (UTSC VPRI) (concluding October 2023)**
Title: *FLOURISH: Community Engaged Arts as a Method for Social Wellness* (PI: Charise). Amount: \$528,440
- **SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (May 2022-24)**
Project Title: *Culturally-Sustaining Arts for Social Wellness: Advancing a Community-Artist-Research Collective* (PI: Charise, Rodricks). Amount: \$200,000
- **New Frontiers in Research Fund Special Call: Innovative approaches to research in the pandemic context (March 2022-24)**
Project Title: *Arts, Wellness, Community: Mobilizing Creative Arts Access Equity for Post-Pandemic Flourishing in Canada (A Participatory Action Research Approach)* (PI: Charise, Rodricks). Amount: \$240,000
- **Connaught Community Partnership Research Program (2022-24)**
Project Title: *(Out)side The Downtown Core: A Mixed-Methods Research Exploration of Sustainable Community Arts-Wellness Programming for Scarborough's 2SLGBTQ+ Youth* (PI: Charise). Amount: \$97,000
- **OVPRI: \$100,000 annually for five years (2023-2028)**

ii) Upcoming/Pending:

- **SSHRC Connection Grant** by the FLOURISH leadership to develop transnational partnerships, facilitate knowledge sharing, and showcase global scholar-artists housed at UTSC. Anticipated Submission: August 2023.
- **SSHRC Insight Grant** by the FLOURISH leadership to enhance research capacity, specifically the research and evaluation of arts-wellness-community initiatives. Anticipated Submission: Fall 2024 or 2025.
- **SSHRC Partnership Grant** by the FLOURISH leadership and community partners to develop partnership goals initiated by current SSHRC PDG, with expansion to facilitate international collaboration and national presence. Anticipated Submission: Fall 2025 or 2026.

9. CONSULTATION

This proposal was developed by Andrea Charise with assistance from Dirk Rodricks, Julia-Gruson Wood, and a team of scholars comprised of faculty, staff members, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows who are current members of the Flourish Collective (a Cluster of Scholarly Prominence at UTSC; www.flourishcollective.ca).

In addition to members of the Office of the VPRI, we consulted other related entities across UTSC and U of T, including: the Centre for Global Disability Studies, Department of Family & Community Medicine, Department of Health and Society, Department of Arts, Culture and Media, Theatre and Performance Studies, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). The proposal was reviewed by members of the ACM Departmental Research committee, which concluded: "this looks great and consistent with the Department's priorities." In March 2023, an overview of the proposed Center was circulated to all members of Social Science departments at UTSC for information and expressions of interest regarding membership. We continue to seek further consultation with other units and colleagues.

Also consulted were community-situated partners and members beyond the academy, specifically those able to speak to the wellness needs of artists, especially from equity deserving groups, including: Mimi Khuc, Syrus Marcus Ware, Scarborough Arts, MABELLE Arts, and all persons/organizations listed in under "Membership" above.

10. ENDORSEMENT

- Attached from Chair, Health and Society (UTSC)
- Attached message of support from Chair, Arts Culture Media (UTSC)



Department of Health and Society
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

March 28, 2023

RE: Establishing a new EDU-C (The FLOURISH Center for Community Arts and Social Wellness)

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to indicate my full support for the establishment of a new Extra-Departmental Unit (C), The FLOURISH Center for Community Arts and Social Wellness, at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

I have followed the development of these plans since Fall 2022, and I have read the attached proposal. Building on three years of externally-funded, innovative arts and social wellness programming first initiated with the *FLOURISH: Community Arts and Social Wellness* Cluster of Scholarly Prominence (2020-23), I fully support the establishment of The FLOURISH Center as part of the Department of Health and Society.

The Department of Health & Society, currently home to Canada's first Health Humanities undergraduate Minor, will provide an intellectual home for the FLOURISH Centre. The proposed director, Dr. Andrea Charise (Associate Professor and Associate Chair-Research, Health and Society, UTSC), will be responsible for the overall administrative and financial operations of the Centre.

In addition to building on the established successes of productive collaborations across UTSC Departments (Arts, Culture, Media especially), the Centre will contribute to strengthening team-community- and tri-campus interdisciplinary engagement that cross-cuts arts and policy realms. In this way, The FLOURISH Center's mandate will strategically complement and extend plans for the forthcoming Institute for Inclusive Health and Wellbeing and the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Schmuckler'.

Mark A. Schmuckler

Acting Chair, Department of Health and Society
Professor, Department of Psychology

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH

1265 Military Trail, Toronto, Ontario M1C 1A4
Tel 416-287-7417 **Fax** 416-287-7462
Email: mark.schmuckler@utoronto.ca

Tomorrow is created here.

Re: Invitation to support new "Center": arts, wellness, community (FLOURISH)

Thy Phu <thy.phu@utoronto.ca>

Tue 2023-03-28 10:35 AM

To: Professor A. Charise <andrea.charise@utoronto.ca>

Cc: Barry Freeman <barry.freeman@utoronto.ca>; Mark Campbell <mark.campbell@utoronto.ca>; Elliot Leffler <elliott.leffler@utoronto.ca>; Roger Mantie <roger.mantie@utoronto.ca>

Dear Andrea,

I'm pleased to let you know that the RCPP committee has reviewed and their feedback is overwhelmingly positive:

"this looks great and consistent with the Department's priorities."

Warmly,
Thy

From: Professor A. Charise <andrea.charise@utoronto.ca>

Sent: March 28, 2023 10:22 AM

To: Thy Phu <thy.phu@utoronto.ca>

Cc: Barry Freeman <barry.freeman@utoronto.ca>; Mark Campbell <mark.campbell@utoronto.ca>; Elliot Leffler <elliott.leffler@utoronto.ca>; Roger Mantie <roger.mantie@utoronto.ca>

Subject: Re: Invitation to support new "Center": arts, wellness, community (FLOURISH)

Hello Thy,

I'm writing to follow up with you and Jas regarding the EDU-C proposal. Any news or information I can provide?

I'm hoping to submit by Friday, for your planning purposes.

With best wishes,
Andrea.

Andrea Charise PhD, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Research Department of Health & Society, University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)
Faculty, Graduate Dept. English
Cross-Appointed Scientist, The Wilson Centre, University Health Network
Associate Professor, Dept. Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine
and Core Faculty, Collaborative Specialization in Women's Health
University of Toronto | andrea.charise@utoronto.ca

Director and Principal Investigator, FLOURISH: Community-Engaged Arts for Social Wellness
A Cluster of Scholarly Prominence at UTSC | www.flourishcollective.ca

From: Professor A. Charise <andrea.charise@utoronto.ca>

Sent: March 23, 2023 5:11 PM

To: Thy Phu <thy.phu@utoronto.ca>

Cc: Barry Freeman <barry.freeman@utoronto.ca>; Mark Campbell <mark.campbell@utoronto.ca>; Elliot Leffler <elliott.leffler@utoronto.ca>; Roger Mantie <roger.mantie@utoronto.ca>

Subject: Re: Invitation to support new "Center": arts, wellness, community (FLOURISH)

Terrific. Many thanks, Thy - and Jas is welcome to correspond directly with me when the time is right.

Best wishes,
Andrea.

Andrea Charise PhD, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Research Department of Health & Society, University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)
Faculty, Graduate Dept. English
Cross-Appointed Scientist, The Wilson Centre, University Health Network
Associate Professor, Dept. Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine
and Core Faculty, Collaborative Specialization in Women's Health
University of Toronto | andrea.charise@utoronto.ca

Director and Principal Investigator, FLOURISH: Community-Engaged Arts for Social Wellness
A Cluster of Scholarly Prominence at UTSC | www.flourishcollective.ca

From: Thy Phu <thy.phu@utoronto.ca>

Sent: March 23, 2023 5:10 PM

To: Professor A. Charise <andrea.charise@utoronto.ca>

Cc: Barry Freeman <barry.freeman@utoronto.ca>; Mark Campbell <mark.campbell@utoronto.ca>; Elliot Leffler <elliott.leffler@utoronto.ca>; Roger Mantie <roger.mantie@utoronto.ca>

Subject: Re: Invitation to support new "Center": arts, wellness, community (FLOURISH)

Dear Andrea,

Thank you for sending this along. I have forwarded to Jas Rault, who is Associate Chair of Research, to share with the RCPP committee and will be sure to convey any feedback we have.

I am looking forward to one day meeting you in person.

Warmly,
Thy

From: Professor A. Charise <andrea.charise@utoronto.ca>

Sent: March 23, 2023 3:12 PM

To: Thy Phu <thy.phu@utoronto.ca>

Cc: Barry Freeman <barry.freeman@utoronto.ca>; Mark Campbell <mark.campbell@utoronto.ca>; Elliot Leffler <elliott.leffler@utoronto.ca>; Roger Mantie <roger.mantie@utoronto.ca>

Subject: Invitation to support new "Center": arts, wellness, community (FLOURISH)

Dear Professor Phu,

My name is Andrea Charise and while we've met before, I wanted to briefly re-introduce myself. For the past 3 years I've been working with ACM faculty including Roger Mantie, Mark Campbell, Barry Freeman, and Elliot Leffler as part of a "Cluster of Scholarly Prominence" focused on the relationship between arts, wellness, and community. (www.flourishcollective.ca, and linked to on the ACM website: <https://www.utscc.utoronto.ca/acm/research-institutes>)

With the encouragement of the UTSC VPRI office, our group is moving ahead a proposal to evolve this Cluster—externally funded now by SSHRC as well as NFRF grants—as a "center" here at UTSC. The proposed "FLOURISH Center for Community Arts and Social Wellness" would be administratively housed in my Department, Health and Society, but **given the strong involvement of key members from ACM, I wanted to reach out to inform you of these EDU-C plans**, request any feedback or comments you might have on the attached 2-page overview, and perhaps—if you had the bandwidth—a brief letter of endorsement for our initiative.

Timelines are never long enough, of course: the VPRI is asking for the full suite of documents by the end of next week. **If you had the chance to offer any kind of feedback—even "looks good to me!"—that would be a meaningful contribution to our efforts.**

To be clear, this would not require any additional outlay on ACM - we are externally funded and asking the VPRI for additional operational funds they've indicated are available for this. **Your endorsement would go a long way in more formally signalling the productive research relationships Barry, Mark, Elliott, Roger and I have been building these past few years.**

Happy to answer any questions you may have.

With best wishes,

PROPOSED EDU-C: THE FLOURISH CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS AND SOCIAL WELLNESS

| REVENUES | Timeframe: July 2023 - July 2028 | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Total |
| UTSC OVPRI | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 500,000 |
| SSHRC PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT | 100,000 | | | | | 100,000 |
| NEW FRONTIERS IN RESEARCH FUND (NFRF) | 97,000 | | | | | 97,000 |
| CONNAUGHT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANT | 47,500 | | | | | 47,500 |
| Total revenues confirmed: | 344,500 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 744,500 |
| <i>Planned:</i> | | | | | | |
| SSHRC Insight Grant (Stream B) | | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 400,000 |
| SSHRC Partnership Grant | | | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 | 750,000 |
| SSHRC Connection Grant | | 50,000 | | 25,000 | | 75,000 |
| Total revenues planned: | 150,000 | 350,000 | 375,000 | 375,000 | 350,000 | 1,225,000 |
| Total revenues confirmed + planned: | 344,500 | 250,000 | 450,000 | 475,000 | 450,000 | 1,969,500 |
| EXPENSES | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Total |
| 1. Staff + SBR* (source: https://people.utoronto.ca/careers/salary-ranges/) | | | | | | |
| Administrative support staff (.75 FTE, Center Coordinator ; USW Salary band 7, \$57564 + 14%) | \$49,217 | \$50,201 | \$51,206 | \$52,230 | \$53,275 | \$256,129 |
| Research support staff (.5 FTE, Senior Research Associate ; minimum 55,325 +14%) | \$63,075 | \$64,332 | \$65,619 | \$66,931 | \$68,270 | \$328,227 |
| | | | | | | \$0 |
| Subtotal | \$112,292 | \$114,533 | \$116,825 | \$119,161 | \$121,545 | \$584,356 |
| 2. Research Programs | | | | | | |
| Arts-wellness-community Seed Grants | \$15,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$45,000 |
| | | | | | | \$0 |
| | | | | | | \$0 |
| Subtotal | \$15,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$45,000 |
| 3. Training | | | | | | |
| Graduate Student Research Assistantships (GRAs; ~120 hours yearly x \$40/hr+14%benefits) | \$5,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$45,000 |
| Learning Academy (Graduate Student) Fellowships (\$5000 each) | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$40,000 |
| | | | | | | \$0 |
| Subtotal | \$10,000 | \$15,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$85,000 |
| 4. Knowledge Transfer | | | | | | |
| Flagship events (e.g. a semi-annual public lecture; festival, conferences) | \$5,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$17,000 |
| Scholar-Artist-Activist (ScholArtiVist) in-Residence | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$50,000 |
| | | | | | | \$0 |
| Subtotal | \$15,000 | \$13,000 | \$13,000 | \$13,000 | \$13,000 | \$67,000 |
| 5. Operations | | | | | | |
| Leadership Honoraria (Director and Associate Directors) | | | | | | |
| a) Teaching release (2.0 FTE, 12,500 per course + 4% annual inflation) | \$25,000 | \$26,000 | \$27,040 | \$28,121 | \$29,247 | \$135,408 |
| b) Yearly honoraria (Associate Directors, \$2000) as research stipend or personal remuneration | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$30,000 |
| Subtotal | \$31,000 | \$32,000 | \$33,040 | \$34,121 | \$35,247 | \$165,408 |
| 6. Other | | | | | | |
| Community Partner and Advisory Board Honoraria | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$30,000 |
| Materials and art supplies | \$5,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$17,000 |
| Hospitality | \$2,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$6,000 |
| Faculty and HQP/trainee-related Recruitment | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | \$1,500 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$7,500 |
| | | | | | | \$0 |
| Subtotal | \$15,000 | \$12,000 | \$11,500 | \$11,000 | \$11,000 | \$60,500 |
| Totals: | \$198,292 | \$196,533 | \$204,365 | \$202,282 | \$205,792 | \$1,007,264 |

Appendix B: Detailed EDU-C Budget and Timeline