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WARDEN’S INTRODUCTION


At the University of Toronto, both the academic year and the fiscal year begin on May 1 of one calendar year and end on April 30 of the next. As I write this, it is the Fall of 2020, and I must confess that the start of the 2019–2020 year – our 100th anniversary year – already seems like a lifetime ago.

The year began during the university’s Annual Alumni Reunion week in May 2019 with an exciting re-imagining and public discussion of the legendary speech that Northrop Frye had delivered on the occasion of Hart House’s 50th anniversary half-a-century before. At the time, who among us could have imagined that after months of exciting, engaging and challenging work to acknowledge one of the oldest, most celebrated and most emulated university student centres in North America, Hart House’s 100th anniversary year would be effectively cut short in March 2020 by the rise of a global COVID-19 pandemic?

Almost overnight, the physical space known as Hart House went from hosting a different crowd or conversation every evening to being shuttered to all but a skeleton crew of employees to maintain the safety and security of the building.

But then something remarkable happened: Hart House carried on without missing a beat. Within a matter of days after its physical closure, the staff and students whose commitment and leadership gives daily life to the mission and purpose of Hart House had created the “Virtual Hart House,” an on-line assemblage of unique, high-quality programming in the arts, dialogue, wellness and community-building for the benefit and enjoyment of the 90,000+ students of the university. By the month of April, the Virtual Hart House was producing more than 140+ hours per month of original content.

That the last six weeks of Hart House’s 100th anniversary year would end up on-line was not something we had anticipated, nor something we would wish for if given our druthers. However, those six weeks in early 2020 did help to underscore the profound truth of the well-worn words spoken by Vincent Massey during the ceremony to open Hart House more than a century before, on November 11, 1919: “The bricks and mortar are but the bones, (but) the community must provide the spirit.” And the Hart House community has done just that, even in the face of a global pandemic, the spirit of Hart House is strong, vibrant, and undaunted.

It is also more inclusive than ever. One of our highest priorities as we planned for our 100th anniversary was that by the end of the year, those who had at one time been excluded from the Hart House community, either by rule or by custom, would see themselves better reflected in our spaces and in our work. As we created our roster of programs and activities, we thought not only of the women who had been excluded for the first half-century of student life at Hart House, but also of the many Indigenous, Black and Racialized students who had never felt they belonged at Hart House.

With them in mind, and with the generous support of a number of individual donors to help us, we were able to unveil the Hart House Centennial Art Commission – a stunning wall sculpture for the Great Hall by noted Anishnabe artist Rebecca Belmore and Cuban-born artist Osvaldo Yero – during our Gala of the Century on November 12, 2019. Entitled Waabidiziiyan dopwinin (To see yourself at the table), the sculpture recognizes that Hart House operates on Indigenous land, and provides a permanent, physical reminder of our firm commitment to unlearning our past practices of exclusion, and ensuring that from now on, everyone who enters Hart House sees themselves, their identities and their stories reflected back at them.

As you read this Annual Report, I invite you to reflect on whose images you see and whose stories you read. If we have done our job well, it provides an accurate picture of the wide array of UofT students who sustained the indomitable spirit of Hart House during the once-in-a-century year that was 2019–2020.

Enjoy.

John Monahan
Warden of Hart House
2019-2020 was, without a doubt, unique in many ways, although Hart House held true to its goal of providing operational, reputational and experiential excellence to a diversified audience in an ever more accessible environment.

In addition to marking the fourth year of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, Hart House marked its centennial anniversary. An exceptional amount of hard work and dedication from staff across all areas of Hart House culminated in 12 months of engagement with students, faculty, alumni and the broader U of T community to recognize Hart House’s past, celebrate its present, and envision its future.

The line-up of centennial programming was cut short in mid-March by the COVID-19 pandemic. That was when in-person events were cancelled and all buildings at the University of Toronto – including Hart House – were closed to the public. Hart House quickly recalibrated its efforts in order to create high-quality online experiences for students. It did so by creating and branding the “Virtual Hart House,” an online hub offering programming spanning the arts, dialogue, wellness and community engagement. Student leaders and Hart House staff began generating more than 140 hours per month of original programming to support students through one of the most challenging academic terms in memory. Students were able to stay connected and escape the four walls of their study spaces with activities spanning an audiobook club, to an array of services and programs offered by Hart House.

Operational Excellence

Hospitality & Facilities Highlights

From May 1, 2019, to March 17, 2020 (date of pandemic closure), Hart House tracked the following statistics for Hospitality Services:

- 4,820 event bookings
- 128,915 event guests
- 11 wedding ceremonies
- 35 wedding receptions
- 770 event bookings by Hart House student groups and programs
- 413 event bookings by University of Toronto student groups

The Hart House Hospitality team also developed important new partnerships in order to, for the first time, host Kosher events with three COR-certified kosher catering companies ready to serve Hart House clients.

Improved Efficiencies

Hart House completed an overall energy audit that encompassed steam, water and electricity consumption. The audit revealed cost reduction opportunities for all three utilities, resulting in $126,000 in savings. The overall reduction in greenhouse gases was 361 metric tons or the equivalent of taking 111 cars off the road.

- Steam consumption reduced by 28%
- Water consumption reduced by 29%
- Natural Gas consumption reduced by 2%
- Electrical consumption reduced by 14%

1183 room reservations were made by student-led groups, including ULife groups and Hart House clubs and committees.

Reputational Excellence

harthouse.ca

In August of 2019, Hart House re-launched its website using a new, database-driven content management system. The new website delivers individualized user experiences to the diverse Hart House audience. It provides engaging information that is quick to access for all students, captivating photography and evocative descriptions for wedding clients; and easy-to-read class schedules and sign-up forms for the Fitness Centre. Most importantly, the website facilitates the cross-promotion of activities and services, introducing website visitors to the full range of programs offered by Hart House.

"Being involved at Hart House has allowed me to develop a community and become more comfortable with myself."

"Being able to feel like I am positively contributing to a school community has been very rewarding. As well, finding like-minded people with similar interests has also been great."

Experiential Excellence

Youth Community Access and Outreach Program

Through arts, dialogue, wellness and community engagement, Hart House offers activities and events that provide experiential learning opportunities to students across all three campuses of the University of Toronto. Working with campus and community partners, Hart House has a strong commitment to engage youth who come from communities traditionally underrepresented and underserved at the University. Through its Youth Community Access and Outreach Program, Hart House delivers programming in dialogue, social justice, recreation, wellness, university life, and overall life skills. Youth participants may also choose to be a part of developing and delivering the programs.

Student Leadership

Hart House Student Committees and Registered Club programs offer students additional opportunities to experience and grow by organizing their own events for their members and fellow students. Working with peers, community advisors and faculty members, students learn first-hand what it takes to become a leader and develop transferable skills that will serve them well in their future careers.
Hart House Board of Stewards

As part of the University of Toronto, and as such, falls under the supervision of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto. Subject to the authority of the Governing Council, the governance of Hart House is delegated to the body known as the Board of Stewards. The Hart House Board of Stewards at the University of Toronto is somewhat unique among other governance bodies of the University in that a majority of its voting members are always students. This includes a representative from each of the 9 student-led Committees of the House as well as each of the 5 student unions across the University’s three campuses.

The Warden of Hart House manages the House and its affairs; the Board of Stewards provides oversight to ensure that they are managed well. The Board keeps Hart House on track in pursuing the goals and priorities set for each year. It oversees and approves Hart House’s annual budget and acts as an advisory body throughout the year.

To learn more about the Board of Stewards, you can access the meeting minutes online at harthouse.ca/about/governance.

In April 2020, Professor Janelle Joseph completed her term as the Chair of the Hart House Board of Stewards. During her time as Chair, Hart House marked its 100th Anniversary and the House’s multi-year capital planning effort for the renewal of its core infrastructure systems was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Hart House Committees

Some of Hart House’s most inventive and experiential programming is developed by student members of the Hart House Student Committees. Through their active membership, students can pursue their passions while gaining practical leadership and organizational skills to help them in their studies, careers and lives. Community members join students on some of these Committees, and others are student-only. Committees plan seasonal activities and events for their members, students on all three campuses, and the general community. Committees are interest-based, and each runs elections each year to elect executive members. They include:

- Art
- Debates & Dialogue
- Farm
- Finance
- Literary & Library
- Music
- Recreational Athletics & Wellness
- Senior Members
- Social Justice
- Theatre

Student Event Highlights:

- Hart House 100th Anniversary Jazz Band Concert
- Hart House Annual Indoor Triathlon
- 2019 – 2020 Year in Review
- harthouse.ca
This year, 1012 students joined registered club programs at Hart House, which is a 25.7% increase from the previous year.

Hart House Registered Club Programs are open to all. Students, faculty, staff and community members pursue their common interests together through events, concerts and activities. Clubs include Chess, Archery, Bridge, Underwater, Film, Camera, Debating, Orchestra, Singers, Chamber Strings, Chorus, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir.

In 2019-2020, Hart House presented several programs designed with the three University of Toronto campuses in mind:

- **Hip Hop Education**
- **Global Commons**
- **Anti-O Convos**

As part of its broad Hip Hop Education series, Hart House hosted multiple events at UTSC and UTM. At UTSC, Hart House hosted *Humanz of Hip Hop*, an event designed to foster connections across generations, racial identities and cultures, where participants shared the personal stories that have shaped their social identity. At UTM, students joined in conversations about Hip Hop culture and its influence in *Hip Hop Cafés* hosted by popular Canadian artists like Drezus, Salman “YLook” Rana and Noyz.

The Anti-Oppression Conversation series (called *Anti-O Convos*), presented in collaboration with the Equity Diversity Office at UTM, explored current events and popular trends in social media while delving into a variety of topics concerning anti-racism.

First launched in 2016, the Hart House Global Commons uses technology to connect students across all three campuses with students at partner universities around the world to discuss and respond to global issues of pressing importance. In 2019-20, the Hart House Global Commons examined the challenge of climate change with students from Colombia, France, the United States, and South Africa.

The work of Hart House is deeply interwoven with that of academic units all across the University in order to enrich students’ educational experiences. Hart House boasts several long-standing academic partnerships, and more collaborations occur every year. Key 2019-2020 Hart House academic partnerships included:

- Youth Access Program, with Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education;
- Hip Hop Education symposium, led by UTSC scholar Dr. Mark Campbell;
- Land-based education at the Hart House Farm, led by the Waakebiness-Bryce Indigenous Health Institute at Dalla Lana School for Public Health;
- Encounters at the Edge of the Woods, a special 100th Anniversary theatre project curated and directed by Professor Jill Carter from the Centre for Drama Theatre and Performance Studies;
- Course connections with Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering;
- Co-op placements for high school students with the Woodsworth College SEE UofT program.
All through 2019-2020, Hart House marked its 100th anniversary as a student-focused centre for the arts, dialogue, wellness, and community at the University of Toronto.

The year-long line up of activities and events included the Centennial Concert Series, which featured special concerts hosted by Hart House’s various musical ensembles; the Centennial Dialogue Series, which featured re-imaginings of historic Hart House debates; and a wide range of projects and events including the exhibition 100 Years, 100 Objects, the Open (Hart) House event for the broader community, a Kids’ Funfair, photo exhibits, the publication of a photo-based Book of Memories, a special edition of the Hart House Literary Journal, and much more.

On November 12, 2019, the Hart House Gala of the Century recognized the official 100th Anniversary of Hart House. Special guests included the Honorable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Chief Stacey Laforme of the Mississaugas of the Credit; Chief Ava Hill of the Six Nations of the Grand River; University of Toronto Chancellor, Dr. Rose Patten; and University of Toronto President, Professor Meric Gertler. They were joined by hundreds of students, alumni, faculty, colleagues, past Hart House Wardens, community partners, donors, sponsors, and supporters.

The Gala of the Century was generously supported by many friends and supporters of Hart House, including individual ticket purchasers, donors, and many University of Toronto departments. However, Hart House is deeply grateful to the lead sponsors and supporters of the gala, whose collective support ensured that the gala netted $90,000 to be used for innovative programs. Hart House would like to offer special thanks to:

- BMO Financial Group, Presenting Sponsor
- Bernard Letendre, Centennial Sponsor
- The Massey Foundation, Legacy Sponsor
- The Walrus, Media Sponsor.

At the Gala, the Hart House Centennial Art Commission was revealed. Following a juried competition, globally-renowned artists Rebecca Belmore and Osvaldo Yero created an original wall sculpture specifically for the Great Hall. Entitled waabidiziiyan doopwining (To see yourself at the table), the dramatic piece will serve as a permanent reminder to everyone who enters that storied room that Hart House must always be a place where all students feel welcome and can see themselves and their truth reflected in the spaces, faces and work of Hart House. After the emotional unveiling and ribbon cutting for the commission, guests enjoyed a sumptuous dinner served in different rooms across the House. A dessert reception in the Great Hall with live music performed by the Hart House Jazz Ensemble rounded out the evening. Hart House is grateful to Dr. Edward Thompson for his leadership support of the Centennial Art Commission.
FOR AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Hart House Centennial Dialogue Series

Hart House has a long history of hosting forward-thinking speakers to share ideas and delve into essential issues of the day. For its 100th Anniversary year, Hart House produced the Centennial Dialogue Series, with each of three major events reimagining a debate from years past. Presented by contemporary participants in a modern context, these discussions proved as relevant to today’s audiences as they did to those of yesteryear.

The Promise and Potential of Indigenous Sovereignty in Canada

To open Hart House’s 100th Anniversary year in a good way, the first event in the Centennial Dialogue Series assembled Indigenous Elders, academics, students, activists and community leaders to reflect on the “Promise and Potential of Indigenous Sovereignty in Canada”. The keynote speaker was the Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew PC, the first Indigenous woman ever elected to the Canadian parliament, a former member of federal Cabinet and a member of the Dene Nation. This was a momentous return to Hart House for Ms. Blondin-Andrew, who had last spoken at a 1991 Hart House debate about “native self-government.”

The 2019 version of this conversation was presented by Hart House in partnership with Indigenous Student Services at the University of Toronto’s First Nations House. To ensure that Indigenous voices were at the centre of the discussion, Indigenous guests and audience members sat in a talking circle, while non-Indigenous guests sat in designated spaces designated to quietly listen and learn.

Weaving Wisdom: Imagining the Future of Feminism

The second instalment of the Centennial Dialogue Series was inspired by a debate hosted at Hart House in 1929. That was the year that Canada’s first female Member of Parliament, Agnes Macphail, debated the resolution, “This House Views That the Emancipation of Women Has Been a Failure.” Notably, Mrs. Macphail had to be granted special permission to participate in that debate because the House at the time did not welcome women.

The 2019 version of this reimagined discussion asked a circle of leading feminist thinkers, scholars and activists, “What does the future of feminism look like?” The intergenerational, intersectional and interdisciplinary panelists included Judy Rebick, Yasmeen Persad, Karyn Recollet, Yamikani Msosa, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh and Arezoo Najibzadeh. Lawyer, broadcaster, comedian and activist Candy Palmater moderated.

Opportunity Lost? A Call to Global Action in the Age of Trump

The third event welcomed celebrated human rights activist Stephen Lewis. It was inspired by a Hart House debate held in 1957 that featured then U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy as a guest speaker, and a 20-year old Lewis as one of the students debating the resolution “This House Believes the United States has Failed in its Responsibility as a World Leader.” Mr. Lewis – one of Canada’s great orators, activists and global citizens - was joined by writer, commentator and activist Michele Landsberg, moderator Shelagh Rogers, and a panel comprised of current students Emily Chu and Rebekah Robinson and recent alum Vince Wong.
Student Debates and Dialogue

The Hart House Student Debates and Dialogue Committee hosted several major events throughout the year on topics as diverse as whether the U.N. has outlived its usefulness and whether journalism has a future. Many of the events were presented in collaboration with other campus groups (including the Hart House Social Justice Committee) or with community partners such as the Canadian International Council and Ryerson University.

The Hart House Debates and Dialogue Endowment Fund is a permanent fund that supports student events, allows for regional and international travel for students to compete at debates, and provides funding for enriched learning experiences.

Hart House Global Commons

The Hart House Global Commons was conceived by Warden John Monahan four years ago as a unique opportunity to engage young people from all corners of the globe in real-time, action-oriented discussions about common issues of pressing concern. Each year, the program has focused on a different topic of major concern and global relevance, such as peaceful pluralism, gender equality, and building better societies. This year’s focus was how to respond to the existential threat posed by climate change. Students – with support from key staff and faculty members – participated from universities in Columbia, Canada, France, South Africa and the United States.

The 2019-2020 Hart House Global Commons employed a new format to encourage more in-depth dialogue and more ongoing engagement. Beginning with a two-hour conference, Climate Change in Focus: Sharing Stories from the Frontlines, students connected with other students both locally and globally to share perspectives and explore how climate change affects us all. Following the conference, students were given the option of participating in a series of related discussions over a period of five weeks. Ten students from each of five global locations met once every week to discuss how local perspectives can shape global action. They were then asked to develop a personal call to action towards climate change. So positive was their experience that all participating universities agreed to continue with an even deeper exploration of the climate crisis in the 2020-2021 iteration of the Hart House Global Commons.

Established in 2019, the Michael R. De Angelis Family Global Innovation Fund provides support for innovative programs at Hart House intended to connect U of T students with those from around the world, including the Hart House Global Commons. This fund aims to help students better understand shared challenges and pursue meaningful actions towards building a better society. Mr. De Angelis is a two-time U of T graduate and a former staff member of Hart House and OISE.
Hart House 100th Anniversary Concert Series

Over the years, the Great Hall at Hart House has welcomed such legendary artists as Glenn Gould, Oscar Peterson, Maureen Forrester, Andres Segovia, Mstislav Rostropovich, The Canadian Brass, Ofra Harnoy, and Nicky Lawrence, to name but a stellar few. Yet among the most popular and beloved performers to grace the stage of the Great Hall are Hart House’s own musical ensembles: Hart House Orchestra, Singers, Chorus, Chamber Strings, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo and Jazz Choir. These groups - comprised of students, faculty, staff and community members - regularly perform concerts to the delight of their loyal audiences.

A series of concerts were specially programmed and performed throughout Hart House’s anniversary year. The result was a timeless and unforgettable concert series.

The generosity of donors enabled the Hart House Singers to retain additional soloists and additional orchestral support for its sold-out 100th Anniversary Verdi Requiem Concert. The Singers, currently led by conductor, David Arnot-Johnson, has been providing opportunities for first-time and experienced singers since 1986. The group provides singers with a chance to share in the joy of choral singing, perform a culturally and historically diverse repertoire, and, most importantly, have fun.

Film

Reel Life @ Hart House

The Hart House Film Board was created in 1975 to support film and video artists. As part of the 100th Anniversary programming, Hart House honoured the Film Board at a special event entitled Reel Life @Hart House. The evening – which culminated in a special outdoor screening on the Hart House Quad - showcased the work of Hart House Film Board members over the years. The evening also served as a reunion for the Film Board alumni and celebrated their many decades of contributions to both Hart House and the broader film community.

As part of the centennial, the Hart House Camera Club put together 100 Years of Campus Life, a retrospective display of club members’ photographs depicting life on campus through the years.

Theatre

Encounters at the “Edge of the Woods”

To kick off Hart House Theatre’s 100th Anniversary season, Jill Carter, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance, Indigenous Studies and the Transitional Year Programme at the University of Toronto, curated and directed this very special presentation. The project used the Indigenous practice of storyweaving to explore the restoration of treaty relationships and consider deep connections to the land. The piece included performers and creators from all over the city who contributed their personal stories and experiences to the resulting multimedia production, entitled Encounters at the “Edge of the Woods.”
2019-20 Hart House Theatre Season

The Rocky Horror Show
By Richard O’Brien; Directed by Jennifer Walls; Starring Chris Tsujiuchi
This cult-classic musical features singalong favourites such as “Time Warp” and “Sweet Transvestite” and encourages raucous audience participation.

“Fun, alive and expressive!”
—audience member.

Portia’s Julius Caesar
By Kaitlyn Riordan, inspired by and adapted from the works of William Shakespeare, directed by Eva Barrie and starring Athena Kaitlin Trinh as Portia.
Told through the eyes of a Roman wife, Portia’s Julius Caesar uses a mix of new words and the rich poetry from over 20 of Shakespeare’s works to explore the role of women in classic storytelling, ancient Roman society and politics.

Created in 2001, the Hart House Theatre Endowment is a permanent fund that was valued at over $1,195,000 in 2019. This fund continues to attract donors every year and helps to support the ambitions of every actor, student or crew member who comes to Hart House Theatre to discover the wonder of live performance. This fund is essential to the continued evolution of the Hart House Theatre.

Ms. Janet Bessey is a living legend of the Hart House Theatre and Canadian Theatre. Working at the Hart House Theatre in the 1960s, she was one of the first women in Canada to act as a stage manager. Ms. Bessey’s career at the Hart House Theatre spanned 30 years, and included several years as General Manager.

The inaugural winner of the Janet Bessey Award for Excellence in Stage Management was Beka Morrison, a fourth-year student at UofT studying Drama Theatre and Performance Studies with a focus in Production design and management. She won the award for stage managing The Boy Who Cried by Brad Gira, the UC Follies entry to the 2019 Drama Festival.


Legally Blonde: The Musical
Based on the hit movie, Legally Blonde: The Musical tells the sassy tale of Elle Woods as she tackles sexism, snobbery and self-discovery in pursuit of her dreams of law school and the perfect outfit.

Modern staging takes a classic WWI-themed play and places it firmly in 2020 within the world of gamers and mega-violent video games. It forces a look at how one generation passes along warlike thinking to the next. The show was presented in association with Hart House’s 100th Anniversary and recognizes the House’s historical connections to the Great War.

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Ms. Bessey was a major donor to the 2001 Theatre Endowment campaign, and in 2019, she made another leadership gift to create the Janet Bessey Award for Excellence in Stage Management. This award will support excellence in stage management at the University of Toronto Drama Festival, which is supported and hosted annually by Hart House.

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Oh! What a Lovely War
By Ted Allan and Charles Chilton and Joan Littlewood and Gerry Raffles and directed by Autumn Smith.
Modern staging takes a classic WWI-themed play and places it firmly in 2020 within the world of gamers and mega-violent video games. It forces a look at how one generation passes along warlike thinking to the next. The show was presented in association with Hart House’s 100th Anniversary and recognizes the House’s historical connections to the Great War.

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“It was an incredible opportunity for me to learn from professionals about the role and experience the creative discussions that go into bringing a show to life. I believe this experience has equipped me with the knowledge and practice I need to feel confident in pursuing more directing opportunities.”

—Tara Costello, Student Chair of the Theatre Committee

Student Festivals

Every February, Hart House hosts the University of Toronto Drama Festival, written by UofT students compete for five coveted awards. The annual Festival serves as a high-profile showcase for up-and-coming theatrical talent as well as an accessible avenue for U of T students to perform and direct on the historic Hart House Theatre stage.

A number of Festival performers from years gone by have gone on to become stars of stage and screen. They include David Yee, William Hutt, Don Harron, Sarah Siddiqui, Kevin Matthew Wong and Donald Sutherland, to name but a few.

Art

The Hart House Centennial Art Commission

The landmark commission, entitled waabidiziiyan doopwining (to see yourself at the table) is one step towards redressing settler colonial narratives. This permanent commission seeks to acknowledge the history, narratives and people who came before us; to honour the land upon which we live and work today; and to imagine other possible futures for current and future generations, from an Indigenous perspective. The monumental artwork asks everyone who enters the Great Hall to consider who was at the table in the past, who is currently at the table, and how to ensure that everyone feels welcome at the table in the future.

The Hart House Centennial Art Commission was generously supported by Dr. Edward G. Thompson. Dr. Thompson served on the Hart House 100th Anniversary Advisory Committee and was a member of the Hart House Senior Members Committee. His donation was the largest of many donations made by dozens of Hart House donors in support of this transformational artwork.

Donors

Created by renowned Hart House Theatre alumnus Donald Sutherland, the Donald Sutherland Award for Best Performance recognizes the most outstanding performance delivered during the University of Toronto Drama Festival. The 2019-2020 winner was Aeden Taylor, U of T Improv for the role of Jeremy in Under Pressure.

God of Gods

For the Hart House 100th Anniversary, internationally renowned, Toronto-based artist Deanna Bowen revisited the theatrical production The God of Gods (1919) in an exhibit presented at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House. The play was written and directed by Carroll Aikins (1888 - 1967), founder of the first national theatre in Canada and artistic director of Hart House Theatre (1927 - 1929). Aikins’ play, originally staged at Hart House in 1922, projected the horrors of war onto a loose adaptation of Romeo and Juliet using “native” motifs that are starkly racist by today’s standards. Bowen’s exhibit included a film with a conversation among Indigenous artists and writers John G. Hampton, Peter Morin, Lisa Myers, Archer Pechawis, and cheyanne turions.
## HART HOUSE BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Operational Excellence</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reputational Excellence</strong></th>
<th><strong>Experiential Excellence</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>567,809</strong> Visits to Hart House and the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House</td>
<td><strong>3,859</strong> Instagram followers</td>
<td><strong>89</strong> Percentage of satisfied visitors to Hart House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>279,471</strong> Visits to Hart House Fitness Centre</td>
<td><strong>9,900</strong> Twitter followers</td>
<td><strong>86</strong> Percentage of students who felt comfortable working with people with different backgrounds as a result of their experiences at Hart House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22,880</strong> Total Visitors to Hart House Theatre</td>
<td><strong>1,873,900</strong> Facebook impressions</td>
<td><strong>1,012</strong> Students in registered club programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4,820</strong> Room/event bookings</td>
<td><strong>1,125,411</strong> Website pageviews</td>
<td><strong>19,994</strong> Students directly engaged in Hart House programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3,017</strong> Visits to Hart House Farm</td>
<td><strong>13,238</strong> Hart House weekly newsletter subscribers</td>
<td><strong>32</strong> Hart House events held at either UTM or UTSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>56</strong> Percentage of non-appointed staff who are students</td>
<td><strong>37,484</strong> Hart House quarterly newsletter subscribers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOR WHAT MOVES YOU

Wellness at the Fitness Centre

To mark Hart House’s 100th Anniversary, the Hart House Fitness Centre challenged members and students to complete 100 repetitions of an exercise of their choice. The popular Hart House Indoor Triathlon urged participants to "Try a Tri" with three 15-minute running, biking, and swimming intervals.

To support members working towards their fitness goals, Hart House trainer and powerlifter Emma Zilberman offered special workshops focused on the Big Three: deadlift, bench press and squat.

The Hart House Student Recreational Athletics and Wellness Committee presented many helpful and timely events for students and members. The Academic Bike Challenges invited students and faculty at U of T to participate as teams or individuals in a month-long contest to win prizes just for biking. The Fight Like a Girl event featured Instructor Dr. Ryhana Dawood, founder of Martial Smarts, an NGO that aims to use martial arts principles to improve the mental health and overall well-being of women, children and seniors.

As part of regular Hart House Coffee Connections morning programming, the Committee presented special sessions during Wellness Week at the end of November 2019. These included a Weekly Wellness Study Kit, a lunch and learn session on getting better sleep and a nutrition workshop.
Youth and Community Access

Hart House offers youth a variety of opportunities to get involved and delight in discovery, whether they are interested in dialogue, social justice, recreation and wellness, university life, or simply gaining general life skills. Through active campus and community partnerships, Hart House works with youth from local communities to provide opportunities for both exploration and exposure to post-secondary education. The focus is on building authentic, sustainable relationships with youth and community partners, and particularly with youth from groups who have long been underserved by the post-secondary sector and underrepresented at Hart House.

In 2019-2020, this programming continued to grow and evolve. Hart House engaged more than 2,000 youth in a wide variety of activities. New partnerships included those with the Jimmie Simpson Youth Council and the City of Toronto Crisis Response Unit. Hart House staff presented this work at conferences and contributed to academic papers. Both graduate and undergraduate students contribute to the delivery and oversight of this program as part of their degree requirements.

A new initiative called the Brotherhood of Ethnic Excellence (BEE) Youth Advisory was created as a pilot program in 2019-2020. The program is intended to build stronger connections between the U of T campus and Black male youth in high-priority neighbourhoods by organizing weekly workshops, hosting guest speakers, holding events, and granting access to on-campus facilities. Eight youth, ages 16-23, were directly involved in planning the group’s activities and informing the future of the BEE Youth Advisory for 2020-2021.

“Hart House makes us feel as though we are part of something bigger ... It gives us that life experience that we need before we go to university ... There is a whole world out there that we never got to see, never got to have access to.”

—Youth Access program participant.

Black Futures

Hart House Black Futures programming features dance performances and classes, wellness offerings, and career-focused events that enable students to interact with today’s Black leaders, artists and visionaries. By exploring Afrofuturism and sharing experiences to blend past knowledge with a re-imagining of the future, participants gain self-awareness and feelings of empowerment.


Black Futures—The (in)Visible Black Woman

Black Futures—Let’s Talk Careers in Tech

Black Futures—Exploring Black & Indigenous Futurisms: An Artist Talk in the Present

Black Futures—Building Black: Mythos by Ekow Nimako

Black Futures—Building Black: Mythos by Ekow Nimako
Hip Hop Education
Through music, dance, art, language and fashion, Hip Hop infuses our everyday culture. This year, Hart House launched its Hip Hop Education series, working in partnership with campus artists, producers and the broader Hip Hop community to present workshops, talks, and multidisciplinary initiatives. The series explored a culture unique in its expression and identity, focusing on community building, personal empowerment, and social activism.

Highlights from 2019–2020 included Hip Hop 101 Cafés presented across all three University of Toronto campuses and featuring Hip Hop icons such as Drezus, Thrust, Noyz, Salman ‘YLook’ Rana and Eterna. The Producers’ Circle program invited student participants to share techniques, ideas and experiences in an open creative environment. Humanz of Hip Hop was a specially curated Human Library that explored the relationship between Hip Hop and our world. Skool of Beatz offered a 5-week DJ program. My Sneaker Story was an online Talking Walls exhibition featuring personal reflections on how sneakers are a piece of our culture and who we are, while Breakdance classes and Hip Hop Yoga helped connect Hip Hop programming to wellness and embodied experiences.

Hart House Stories Podcast Programs
Hart House produces compelling audio stories that focus on student experiences at the University of Toronto and beyond. The Hart House Centennial Dialogue Series captures the remarkable conversations from Hart House anniversary programming. The Storyweavers pilot program taught the basics of podcasting to a group of students from across U of T’s three campuses who went on to produce their own podcast interviews. The West Meeting Room Series features in-depth interviews and round-table discussions focused on social justice, language, identity and self-care.

The Hart House Finnish Exchange
by Jaimi Foster, Chair of the Hart House Finnish Exchange

The Hart House Finnish Exchange (HHFE), known as Kaedonistit in Finnish, is Canada’s oldest student exchange (est. 1951). The two countries rotate, sending students every two years, and typically eight students are sent per group. Hart House partners with three universities in Helsinki to facilitate this exchange. It is run by students and past exchange alumni on both sides. The students arrive for a summer work exchange, which includes a two-week orientation of the host country before they start work.

In May of 2019, Hart House hosted seven Finnish students, ranging in age from 19 to 28. The summer began with a road trip featuring destinations in Prince Edward County, Montreal and Ottawa. The students all worked at jobs in the GTA, including three who worked for previous exchange alumni. During the summer, the HHFE Committee and alumni hosted numerous events for the Finnish students, including a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game, an escape room at Casa Loma, a traditional Finnish dinner, and most excitingly, a viewing party to watch the Raptors win the 2019 NBA championships!

The Finnish students lived together in student co-op housing at U of T, and they also hosted the HHFE Committee for dinners and events throughout the summer. Before leaving Canada, six of the Finns flew to Kelowna, B.C., to stay with Kennedy Kneller (2017 Alumni) and had a lovely trip enjoying the great Canadian outdoors, including hiking and horseback riding and wakeboarding. The Finns that were hosted are now preparing to host the next Canadian group and planning for the Exchange’s 70th Anniversary celebrations, which are both (tentatively) taking place in the summer of 2021.
SPACES

Arbor Room Progress

The Arbor Room construction project, which began in April 2019, is well underway with an anticipated completion date in early 2021. The transformation thus far includes a new floor, an accessible ramp, and a restaurant with accessible seating areas that will allow for physical distancing.

There have been many exciting milestones that have been achieved throughout this complex construction project. Aside from remedying some structural issues, including finding an engineering solution to support the concrete floor, a significant focus of the revitalization has been on accessibility. This has included modernizing the structural layout of the century-old building, creating an interior space based on universal design principles and developing a sustainability plan to reduce the carbon footprint. Hart House worked closely with the Rick Hansen Foundation to achieve an accessible certification rating.

Ongoing improvements include:

• Improving air quality and temperature control of the room through a new HVAC system;
• Designing a room layout with enough clear floor space with a turning diameter to allow for easy flow throughout the seating area, food counters and checkout;
• Building tables with clear knee space and counters at heights based on accessibility design standards;
• Ensuring signage meets AODA height and readability guidelines; and
• Installing Universal washrooms.

Accessibility Highlight

harthouse.ca

In September 2019, a new Hart House website was launched (harthouse.ca). It was designed with accessibility in mind and was optimized for mobile use from its inception. The content was structured using headings, proper tagging for images, well-organized clear language, good colour contrast and readable typography. The site architecture and nomenclature were designed with usability, ease of navigation and continuation in mind. As the site continues to evolve, prevailing best practices in design and accessibility are being incorporated.

In the summer of 2019, Hart House was delighted to work with its campus partner organization, the University of Toronto Students’ Union (UTSU), to make an important stride towards creating a more accessible Hart House. The UTSU represents all full-time undergraduate students on the St. George campus, and it is a strong advocate for heritage buildings like Hart House to improve their physical accessibility.

The UTSU generously donated $100,000 to support the creation of a Universal Washroom on the basement level of Hart House. The new washroom will accommodate most mobility devices and people with a relationship to disability. This washroom, with construction beginning in 2020, will be one of the first of its kind at the St. George campus. Hart House is grateful to the generosity and foresight of the UTSU for helping to ensure that students and other members of the university and the broader community with physical disabilities are fully able to enjoy all that Hart House offers.
Donor Supported Awards

Judi Schwartz Memorial Scholarships

2019 saw the inaugural awarding of the Judi Schwartz Memorial Scholarships, created by the estate of Judi Schwartz, a long-time Hart House staff member and founding curator of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery. These awards recognize student excellence within Hart House’s student-led Clubs and Committees. Felicia Barber and Nicolas Sartor Campos each received the Scholarship in its inaugural year.

Winner: Felicia Barber

In 2019-2020, Felicia Barber served as the Co-Chair of the Hart House Farm Committee, as well as the Finance Committee Steward on the Hart House Board of Stewards. As Co-Chair of the Farm Committee, Felicia implemented more sustainable practices for events run by the Farm Committee and contributed to the Committee’s Indigenous-inspired mapping project. Felicia’s leadership helped advance the Committee’s focus on Indigenous knowledge, food justice, and urban agriculture.

Winner: Nicolas Sartor Campos

In 2019-20, Nicolas Sartor Campos served as the Co-Chair of the Hart House Finance Committee, as well as the Finance Committee Steward on the Hart House Board of Stewards. Nicolas provided diligent financial oversight to Hart House. Under Nicolas’ leadership of the Committee, financial literacy programs—which serve both U of T and high school students—were expanded to become a tri-campus initiative that benefited from a number of partnerships across campus and within the Toronto community.

The 2019 Audrey Hozack Student Leadership Award

This award was created in 2015 in honour of the legacy of Audrey Hozack, a towering presence in the life of Hart House. Mrs. Hozack was one of the first senior women administrators at U of T and worked at Hart House for decades, including many years as Deputy Warden. This award recognizes excellence in broad-based student leadership at Hart House.

Winner: Arwyn Workman-Youmans

In 2019-20, Arwyn Workman-Youmans served as the Chair of the Hart House Music Committee. In addition to serving various roles in the Music Committee since 2017, Arwyn served as the Communications lead for the Hart House Debates and Dialogue Committee from 2017 to 2019. Arwyn’s cross-committee engagement exemplifies the Hart House spirit of discovery and collaboration. Through Arwyn’s involvement on the Music Committee, they have fostered partnerships across campus, but also beyond campus through a partnership forged with Ryerson University. Arwyn’s own passion for music has further transformed the Music Committee into a space where students can connect with one another and explore the city through music. Arwyn created experiences that connect students, with a focus on queer-inclusive events, on and off-campus.

University-wide Awards

Hart House Wins IDERD Award

In 2020, the IDERD Strategic Innovation Initiatives Award (Group) was awarded to the Enhancing Access through Youth Community Partnerships team led by Danielle Dinunzio, Program Coordinator at Hart House. The initiative supports numerous programs that help provide access to underrepresented youth at the University of Toronto.

Along with Danielle, other Hart House recipients included Tom Moss, Olivia Allen, Carlie Baylis, Michele Cheh, Alejandro Vargas-Samboy, Zoe Dille, Jessica Rayne, and Professor Janelle Joseph from KPE, who was also Chair of the Hart House Board of Stewards at the time.

Each year, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD) Awards are given to University students, staff and faculty for their work supporting anti-racism. Enhancing Access through Youth Community Partnerships includes workshops exploring social justice in communities around gender identity and race, podcasting, visual arts, and wellness activities such as food preparation and physical activity participation at the Hart House.

Working with on- and off-campus partners, the program brings youth from local communities to explore campus life and interact with University of Toronto students. The aim is to build authentic, sustainable relationships with youth and community partners through programs and activities in the arts, debate and dialogue, recreation and sport and social justice. The focus is on engaging with underrepresented groups in post-secondary education such as Indigenous and racialized youth, Black male youth, and LGBTQ2S identified youth.

Zoe Dille Wins Jill Matus Award

As Senior Coordinator of Learning and Community at Hart House, Zoe has developed rich, dynamic and diverse programming that has touched students’ lives at the University of Toronto and throughout the community.

From the Hart House Hip Hop Education program to the Multi-Faith Centre, First Nations House, and the Centre for Student Life Professional Network and has worked with the Student Life Day of Learning programs and the Multi-Faith Centre, First Nations House, and the Centre for Community Partnerships on several programs.

At Hart House, she has acted as staff advisor for the Hart House Social Justice Committee and the Hart House Music Committee delivering programming that celebrates inclusion, representation and understanding across all 3 campuses.

The University-wide Jill Matus Excellence in Student Services Award is given to individuals who have gone above and beyond expectations and have demonstrated excellence in the area of student services.

HART HOUSE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Hart House Mentorship Program matches mentors and mentees on the basis of both their professional ambitions and their personal priorities, interests and passions. The program is open to graduate students and mature part-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto. Approximately 44 mentors, consisting of Hart House alumni, friends and senior members, were matched with students in 2019-2020.

The Hart House Mentorship Program is a joint initiative between Hart House and Ryerson University’s Soar Aboriginal Youth Gathering. She has served for many years on the planning committee for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD), and has supported the Student Life Day of Learning programs and Student Life Professional Network and has worked with the Multi-Faith Centre, First Nations House, and the Centre for Community Partnerships on several programs.

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Alumnus and dedicated volunteer bequeaths historic gift to Hart House

Written by Alice Taylor, Senior Campaign Writer, University of Toronto

Hart House begins its second century, as it began its first: with a powerful act of philanthropy.

Friends of Hart House from the 1950s through to the 1990s may well remember Donald Burwash's (BA Vic 1954) deep commitment to U of T's iconic student centre—first as a student, later as a passionate volunteer and most recently as the benefactor of the largest gift to Hart House since the Massey Foundation donated Hart House itself to the U of T in 1919. Sadly, Don passed away in November 2018.

While deep, Don's passion for Hart House was always modestly expressed. "He was a man of few words and even fewer pretensions," says John Monahan, the Warden of Hart House. "Don was a tremendously successful lawyer, an avid sailor, and he lent his considerable talent to the service of many good causes—including Hart House and the University more broadly—but he wasn't someone who sought out the spotlight. Don preferred to demonstrate his commitment, and his belief in the power of Hart House to transform a student's education, through action."

As a student, Don was recruited to join the Hart House Board of Stewards by Warden Joseph McCulley, who reached out personally to invite him to become involved with student governance.

"That invitation was the beginning," says Monahan. "Don remained closely involved with Hart House and the University for the rest of his life."

A legacy of giving back

After graduating with an honours BA in economics and political science, Burwash went on to earn a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School and spent the majority of his professional career as Vice-President and Legal Counsel for Coca Cola Canada. Throughout that time, he remained committed to his alma mater, serving for decades as a member of U of T Governing Council and numerous Hart House committees and even stepping in as the Acting Warden of Hart House for a brief period in 1997.

In honor of Don's historic gift, Hart House will be renaming the South Dining Room the Donald Burwash Room, a room where Don himself attended or chaired multiple Hart House meetings and events.

"Don was passionate about Hart House," says Monahan. "He wanted to ensure that future generations of students have the quality of opportunities he had at U of T. Don is leaving not only an extremely generous financial legacy, but also a deep and rich personal and professional legacy of giving back to the communities and places that benefitted him throughout his life."

Embracing the spirit of community

Don’s remarkable generosity will reinvigorate common spaces and help make Hart House even more welcoming to all students and members of the U of T community.

"This is a historic gift, and it is very much in keeping with the spirit of the Massey Foundation’s desire to create a place where students—as well as faculty, staff, alumni and members of the broader community—come together, across their differences, in common pursuit of what the House’s founders termed ‘high endeavour,’" says Monahan.

In addition to revitalizing the South Dining Room, funds will be used to improve accessibility, replace and restore aging furniture and other décor, and reimagine whole spaces—such as the Hart House Information Hub and Arbor Room—in ways that better serve the needs of today’s students and other members of the U of T community.

"Hart House is a special place. I frequently hear from alumni that the learning experiences they acquired here when they were students made an unparalleled imprint on their lives," says Monahan. "It’s also a heritage building that requires considerable resources to maintain. Don’s gift will help us start a major campaign that will enable us to renew the physical infrastructure of Hart House from top to bottom. It will also enhance the spirit of community and facilitate the kind of transformative experiences and sense of belonging that drew Don to Hart House in the first place, and that remain vital to our mission as we begin our second century. We are humbled and enormously grateful."

Hart House 100th Anniversary Gala Sponsors

On November 12, 2019, Hart House marked its centennial with its “Gala of the Century” that featured the unveiling of the Centennial Art Commission, a lavish dinner and performances by our student musical groups.

The gala raised over $90,000 towards Hart House’s Program Innovation Fund. Thank you to everyone who supported the gala, either through their personal attendance, donation or other contribution.

Thank you to our major Gala of the Century Sponsors:

- BMO Financial Group, Presenting Sponsor
- Bernard Letendre, Centennial Sponsor
- The Massey Foundation, Legacy Sponsor
- The Walrus, Media Sponsor

Thank you to the donors and U of T departments who purchased a table or supported student attendance:

- Anonymous
- Division of University Advancement, University of Toronto
- Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education, University of Toronto
- Margaret McCain
- Massey College
- Warden John Monahan
- Office of the Vice-Provost, Students, University of Toronto
- Property Services & Sustainability, University of Toronto
- University of Toronto Mississauga
- University of Toronto Scarborough
- University Planning, Design & Construction, University of Toronto
Thank You To Our Donors
Thank you to all the donors who helped Hart House celebrate its 100th Anniversary year and begin a second century of inspiring students to pursue lives of high civic endeavour. Thank you for your support.

King's College Circle Heritage Society
Thank you to the following donors who have most generously made a gift to Hart House in their wills, or have made some other future gift commitment.
Edward M. Bridge
Maureen & James Dunn
Anne Ellis & Stephen Sibalis
Monika H. Johnston
Andrea Kerr
Alan Marcus
Don Middleton & Clayton Wilson Fund
Barbara & Bruce Norman
Donald M. Famenier
Krista E. Slade
Tim Stephenson & Katherine Mansfield
Ann & Ross Stuart
Terry Tedesco
Bernard A. Torbik
Glynn T. Williams
(2 Anonymous)

Lasting Legacies
Hart House recognizes the generous gifts it has received from donors' estates.
The Estate of Douglas R. Booz
The Estate of Donald A. Burwash
The Estate of Douglas F. Dadson
The Estate of John F. Flinn
The Estate of Dorothy Heilbronn
The Estate of Audrey Hozack
The Estate of Joyce Leah Robertson
The Estate of Judith R. Schwartz
The Estate of Gray M. Steele
The Estate of James Stewart
The Estate of Robert I. Story
The Estate of Allen R. Taylor

Our annual donor listing recognizes the generosity of those who have pledged $500 or more to Hart House between May 1st, 2019 and April 30, 2020. These annual donations are essential for Hart House to continue its most important work of bringing students together beyond the classroom so they may live out the highest ideals of their education.

$75,000 and over
BMO Financial Group
University of Toronto Students’ Union

$25,000-$74,999
Janet Marianne Bessey
Michael R. De Angelis
Bernard Letendre
Paul D. Paton

$10,000-$24,999
The William and Nona Heaslip Foundation
The Audrey S. Hellyer Charitable Foundation
The Massey Foundation
The Tauba and Solomon Spiro Family Foundation
Catharine Whiteside
(1 Anonymous)

$5,000-$9,999
Manulife Financial
Mary McDougall Maude
(1 Anonymous)

$500 to $4,999
Iain Allen
Robin T. Anthony
Rosemary Bollitho
Edward M. Bridge
Robert D. Cook
William J. Dowkes
Nigel Faulkner
George A. Fierheller
Barbara Fischer
Caj Frostell
Penglai Guo
Paul Hearn
Paul T. Hellyer
Monika H. Johnston
Arthor Kennedy
John M. & Elizabeth A. Kerr
Horace Krever
Sherry Kulman
Helen and Larry LeDuc
Bosko D. Loncarevic
Larry Lundy
H. Ian & Dorothy Macdonald
Harry & Ann Malcolmson
Kenneth Y. Mark

We are grateful for the continued support of all our generous donors. We endeavour to make our lists as accurate as possible. For more information, or if you have questions about Hart House’s donor listing, please contact Senior Development Officer, Peter Wambera at 416-946-3993 or peter.wambera@utoronto.ca.
### INCOME STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2020 (DOLLARS)**

#### REVENUE
- Student fees .................................. $11,455,928
- Membership fees .............................. 1,117,852
- Food revenue .................................. 2,847,599
- General revenue ............................... 2,177,210
- Investment income ............................ 406,523
- Clubs & Committees' programming ....... 114,731
- Donations, grants & amortization ........... 391,386
- Gratuities/Service Charge .................. 416,711

_Total ............................................. $18,927,940_

#### EXPENSES
- Salaries, wages & benefits ................. $11,776,413
- Cost of Food ................................... 844,610
- Maintenance ................................... 1,072,192
- Utilities ........................................ 682,075
- Insurance ........................................ 116,380
- Depreciation, loss/gain on disposal ....... 514,980
- Clubs & Committees' programming ...... 383,023
- Theatre production costs .................. 52,021
- Sundry expense ............................... 167,667
- General office ................................. 225,829
- Publicity, photography, printing, prizes ... 203,020
- Uniforms & linen laundry .................. 149,235
- Software & data processing ............... 97,252
- Equipment, supplies, equip repair & rentals 824,298
- U of T overhead ............................... 224,896

_Total ............................................. $17,333,892_

#### COMMITMENTS & TRANSFERS
- Net Spending on Capital Assets .......... $1,584,483
- Add to (spend from) Reserve .......... (120,373)
- Add to (spend from) Operating Reserve .. 81,700
- Add to (spend from) Maintenance Reserve 48,237

_Total ............................................. $1,594,048_

#### EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSE AND COMMITMENTS

$0

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**Operating Revenue**

Operating Revenue is $18.9 Million:
- Student fees: 58%
- Food and rentals: 31%
- Membership classes: 6%
- Others: 5%

**Operating Expenses and Commitments**

Operating Expenses and Commitments are $18.9 Million:
- Salaries: 62%
- Capital renewal and utilities: 22%
- Cost of food: 5%
- Other: 8%
- Clubs and Committees: 3%