

Immediate Release

April 9, 2010

The 6th Annual City Expedition Race - City Mosaic

Diversified youth discovering diversities in Toronto

How much do you know about Toronto? Most of us travel on wheels to school and work; we are focused so much on our destination but may not have a chance to lay our eyes on things and happenings on route. City Mosaic is a program that encourages participants to discover things and people that we may have missed during our routine daily lives, and give us a chance to develop our sense of belonging to Toronto.

Entering into its 6th year as an organizer, Across U-hub had initially established this event for Chinese youth, as it was a common trait for Asian youths to focus on academic achievements but often lack community involvement and extra-curricular activities during their development. Like all youth, they sought friendship and interaction on internet or on-line games. City Mosaic is a one-day event that take participants away from the world that they live within their keyboard and encourage them to engage their fingers and senses into the reality. Our youths today shall not only embrace the virtual community, but also the reality. The reality that City Mosaic is referring to is our downtown Toronto, a community that is full of multi-cultural stories.

Participants are asked to compete in teams of 4, searching for clues and answers throughout the downtown Toronto. Communication and problem solving skills are just some of the essential skills that participants require. Eugenia Chan, a member of last year's City Mosaic Champion and Top Explorer Award winning team, recalled the interactions that her teammates had last year: the team dynamic developed as the day and competition came to completion, and her whole team had joyfully found Toronto, aside from the usual hotspots, to have so much to offer.

This year, the organizer is happy to announce their official partnership with the Vietnamese and Korean youth groups. Other than taking part in the event, the organizer also created a platform for youths from different cultural background to socialize and develop friendships.

Five years ago, the organizer initiated this event to address needs in Chinese youth; the program had developed through the years. The organizer was happy to accommodate 400 participants last year, and since 2007, this event had been officially listed as part of Asian Heritage Month event. It had also been recognized by city counselors in the Markham, GTA and Richmond Hill region. Now in its 6th year, this event is no longer confined to its Chinese community, but had developed to a capacity that can serve other ethnic groups in the community. Joseph Wong, program director of Across U-hub, said that it was a good opportunity to exchange and interact with different cultures. In the past, collaboration was established with Youth Vision Chinese Group, SSN South Asian Group and SWAT Vietnamese Group. This year he is happy to invite KCCA Korean Group to join hands. The sharing of resources between different ethnic groups is important, as the beneficiaries of City Mosaic are no longer Chinese youth but the vision was able to be extended to other minority groups.

Ms. Maria Yau, Project Coordinator, Research and Information Service, Toronto District School Board embraced this event with great enthusiasm. She said that this is an event with great educational values. The experiential learning requires youths to immerse within their community and surroundings, so that youth can learn to appreciate and respect the diversity within their society.

“I’m happy that I can be a part of the planning committee. The team work that I’ve learned here is very different from group projects in school. In school, we had complete our task, put the presentation together and be done with it, but during the planning of City Mosaic, our team really works together and contributes. I used to not pay attention to the little things around me, but now I’d look a bit closer when I walk to places. This ‘exploring mind’ continues in my daily life. Not to be conceited or anything, but for the amount of work that the planning team had contributed, the \$20 registration fee per person is well worth it.”, said Vincent Lun, a first year college student and Across U-hub volunteer and City Mosaic Planning Committee Member.

For the one-day event, the organizer claimed that participants will experience joy in connecting to the city, teammates and also to our own self. Checkpoints in downtown Toronto will allow participants to discover the historical and cultural aspect of our city, and fun trivia that is worth a day of sweat and joy.

City Mosaic will be held on May 29, 2010. The opening and award ceremony will be held at the Scarborough Civic Centre (Albert Campbell Square). Race rules: in 8 hours, teams of 4 are to compete using the City Mosaic question booklet; allowing only TTC and on foot as

transportation means, participants are set out to different communities in Toronto in finding answers to the booklet. Questions and clues are placed around different communities in Toronto. The team that scores the highest using shortest time takes home the City Mosaic Championship award.

Eligibility requires participants to be 16 or over, registration for a team is \$120 (includes TTC pass and event t-shirt), registration deadline is May 10, 2010. Register before April 23, participants can take advantage of the early bird special of \$80 per team. Limited space available. Registration can be done on-line (Paypal) on organization website, and paper registration form is also available for download. For more information, readers can phone 905-944-1944 or go on www.acrossuhub.com.

Across U-hub Overview

Together we help nurture our youth:

- *To become a bridge across cultures by taking roots in Canada while developing a global perspective*
- *To become servant leaders for communities by helping them grow holistically*

Our Work:

We adopt creative, interactive and multi-disciplinary approaches:

- *To nurture our youth's holistic growth*
- *To cultivate their servant leadership skills*
- *To promote peer support and mentorship*
- *To foster their sense of community and to encourage active participation in cultural and civic activities etc.*

Inquiries:

For more information about Across U-hub, please call us at 905-944-1944, e-mail us at info@acrossuhub.com, or visit our website at <http://www.acrossuhub.com/>.