

SUMMARY

- Award-winning filmmaker and PhD researcher working at the intersection of film, performance, and research-creation.
 - Internationally exhibited director with 25+ years of experience in documentary, fiction, and hybrid cinema.
 - Published interdisciplinary scholar specializing in autoethnography, community-engaged research, and mental health.
 - Experienced workshop facilitator and university educator in filmmaking, scriptwriting, documentary production, and performance.
 - Recipient of prestigious academic and film awards, including the CGS-SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship and the CILECT Prize.
 - Committed to collaborative, arts-based research that connects creative practice with social impact.
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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Theatre & Performance Studies

2022 - current

York University, Toronto

Lead Supervisor: Mary Bunch

Committee: Magdalena Kazubowski-Houston, John Greyson

MFA, Film Production

September 2021

York University, Toronto

Thesis title: Unfinished: *an autoethnography of mental illness*

Committee: Manfred Becker, Philip Hoffman

Post Graduate Diploma in Cinema

January 1995

Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

Diploma Film title: Telephone Fiction, *Format:* 35 mm b/w

B. ED. Special Education

January 1990

S.N.D.T. University, Mumbai

B.A. *double major:* Psychology and Sociology

December 1989

Mumbai University

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

Winter 2026

York University

- The Photographic Experience – VISA 1006
- On-line, synchronous
- Course Director: Robyn Cumming

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2025

York University

- Skills For Success in the Arts – PANF 1900
- In-Person
- Course Director: Bridget Cauthery

Graduate Research Assistantship with Dr. Mary Bunch

Summer 2025

York University

Teaching Commons Tutor

Fall-Winter 2025

York University

- Support Educational Developers
- Provide remote support to Teaching Assistants
- Engage in online courses
- Facilitate presentations

Teaching Assistant

Fall-Winter 2025

York University

- Writing Process and Practice WRIT 1700 9.0
- Online, asynchronous
- Grading

Teaching Assistant

Fall-Winter 2024

York University

- Writing Process and Practice WRIT 1700 9.0
- Online
- Grading

Teaching Assistant

Fall-Winter 2023

York University

- Introduction to Art History FA/ARTH 1130 6.00
- Grading, student mentoring for final projects

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

TEACHING - continued

Professor

Winter 2022

Humber College, Faculty of Media & Creative Arts

- Media & Production Fundamentals 1500
- Non-Fiction Documentary Production 3500
- Course Delivery
- One-on-one Mentoring

Teaching Assistant

2019-2020

York University, Art, Media, Performance & Design

- COURSE - Media Making Film 1001 (First Year)
- Lesson planning and Grading
- Classroom management

Professor

2016-2018

Durham College, Media, Art and Design School

- Advanced Filmmaking Program
- Built and taught courses in Directing, Scriptwriting and Production Management
- Mentored two batches of 60 students to produce personal documentaries

Audio Visual Faculty Head

2011-2013

Symbiosis Institute of Media & Communication (PG), Pune

- Dissertation guidelines
- Courses taught: Scriptwriting, Documentary Film
- Syllabus and course design
- Lesson planning and evaluation
- Course coordination & Progression
- Mentorship of 30 personal documentary creation projects

Program Manager and Professor

2010-2011

Media & Entertainment Program, Centum U (UG)

- Course coordination
- Faculty selection and coordination
- Courses taught: Film Appreciation, Creative writing, Media management
- Workshop Planning & Execution

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

RELATED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistantship with Dr. Mary Bunch June 2026 – Present

York University

- Story facilitator for AR Storytelling project.

Lead investigator: Dr. Suze Burkhout, UHN

Research Analyst June 2026 – Present

South Asian Women's Centre, Toronto

Graduate Student Representative, YAAG 2025-2026

York Apartments Advisory Group

Graduate Student Representative 2024-2025

AMPD Graduate Committee *York University*

Graduate Student Representative YAAG, 2025-2026

York Apartments Advisory Group

Graduate Student Representative 2024-2025

AMPD Graduate Committee

York University

Graduate Research Assistantship with Dr. Mary Bunch Winter 2024

York University

Family Advisory Committee, Stella's Place 2023-2026

- Course Design and Delivery for family caregivers
- Continuous feedback for improving quality and identifying gaps in services
- Providing lived experience expertise

Family Advisory Committee 2022- 2026

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

- Advisory group: Ethics Framework Revision Project
- Working group: Digital Front Door: develop digital interface for patients and caregivers
- Sub-committee: Family Peer support: collaborate, design and research partner programs

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

RELATED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE - continued

Advisory Committee, Teaching Commons Advisory Board Council **2019-2021**

York University

- Periodic assessment of course offerings to support teachers
- Needs assessment and feedback: online teaching and learning

Outreach Advisor, Student and Faculty Exchange Program **2013-2014**

Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

- Coordination, faculty enrichment and development workshops
- Student Film Festival planning committee
- Conceptualize and organize panels

Studio Director **2011-2013**

Symbiosis Studios, Symbiosis Society

- Business development
- Planning events & workshops
- Operations & Innovation
- Audio-visual supervision, operations & Innovation

Stirfry Films (Sushant Buttan) **2009-2010**

Writer – research and story development

- Co-writer, feature film step-outline [Drama]

Commissioning Editor **1999-2001**

Sahara Satellite Television, India

- Portfolio: Prime-time episodic serials. Genre: drama
- Successfully coordinated, developed and launched 7 drama series

PUBLICATIONS

- Author, article. "Suspended Traces: Cinema, Solace, and the Work of Re-assembling History." CINEPHILE 20.1, **Big Feelings: Cinematic Solace, Grief, and Comfort**. Department of Theatre & Film. University of British Columbia. In Review.
- Author, article. "Unfinished: Autoethnographic Reflections on Madness, Mothering, and Co-Creative Repair." ATLANTIS, Special Issue, **Disability, Divergence, and Creative Expression**. In Press.

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PUBLICATIONS – continued

- Author, article. "Framing Migrant Women: Discursive, Legal, and Socio-Political Perspectives." ATLANTIS, Special Issue, **WPS Agenda**. In Review.
 - Author, article. "Earth Crusader: A Crusade For Sustainability in Building." **Eco-citizenship, Sustainable Climate, and the Performance Art – Planet, People and Practice**. Vernon Press.
 - Author, paper. "*Us and Them*: Challenging Boundaries of Ethnicity and Culture in the Classroom." Presented at the Education Conference on the Theme: **Beyond Taboos: Rethinking Education For A Changing World**, May 2024.
 - Author, article. "'My Mother Makes Films to Cope With Her Demons': Confronting Normality ". **Journal of Recovery in Mental Health**, vol. 7, no. 2, Apr. 2024, pp. 32-40, doi:10.33137/jrmh.v7i2.43070.
 - Author, book chapter. "Personal is Political: Documentary and Intimacy." **Resistance in Aesthetics and Practice in Indian Documentary Film: Against Sense**. Edinburgh University Press, 2023.
 - Co-Author, article. "Layered Methodologies: Innovating Multimodal Qualitative Research in Liver Transplantation." **Journal of Liver Transplantation**, vol. 12, November 2023, article number 100183. [https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S2666-9676\(23\)00045-4](https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S2666-9676(23)00045-4).
 - Author, **MFA thesis support paper**. "Unfinished." York University, September 2021. <https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/handle/10315/40591>
 - Author, book chapter: "Ishaa and Me." **The Story That Brought Me Here: To Alberta From Everywhere**. Edited by Linda Goyette, Brindle and Glass, 2008, p. 112.
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SHABNAM SUKHDEV

PANELS

- Mad Studies Hub, Co-panelist with Dr. Jan deFer, Dr Geoffrey Reaume, Tereza Barta, Ishaa Chopra. Moderated by Marina Morrow. Topic: *Conversation on Mental Health, Madness and Bridging Lived Experience*. October 23, 2025
- FOLDA 2025 (Festival Of Live Digital Art) Presenter, Start Up June 2025
- *Panel Co-design and co-facilitation* for the Community Caregiver Program, Stella's Place. 'Managing Family Dynamics.' November 20, 2024
- *Roundtable* with the Concordia Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling. 'Beyond Transplant Stories: Weaving Community-Based Knowledge in Solid-Organ Transplantation through Arts Based Methods and Digital Storytelling with Patients.' November 15 2024.
- *Panel: Climate Change Research Month 23: 'The Science, Social Science and Art of Climate Change'* with Laura McKinnan, Joanna Robinson, and Byomkesh Talukder. Moderated by Elaine Coburn, Centre of Feminist Research. March 30, 2024
- *Caregiver Panel*, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences November 2023
- Humanities Conference 2023, Site Specific Performance: *Balancing on the Hyphen*, May 29, 2023 Humanities Congress 2023 Swag Event. Co-collaborator: Meera Kanageswaran.
- Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills, Development panelist, *Roots & Routes: Tracing the Origins and Diversity of Asian Communities in Ontario Today*. Asian Heritage Month initiative. Screened film *Veiled Voices* in context of South Asian diasporic women's experiences. May 18, 2023
- *Lenses We Look through panel*, guest speaker Reelabilities Film Festival, Toronto May 12-16, 2023
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, *Real talk, real connections...hard conversations about caring for loved ones*, guest speaker April 2023

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

PANELS - continued

- Centre for Feminist Research (CFR), *Climate Change* Panel moderated by Chair, Elaine Coburn, Director of the CFR. With presenters: Dr. Laura McKinnon. Professor McKinnon (Biology, Glendon), Dr. Joanna Robinson. Professor Robinson (Sociology, Glendon) and Dr. Byomkesh Talukder. Dr. Talukder is the inaugural Planetary Health Fellow (Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research), March 30, 2023
- Screening *Unfinished* & Panel: *Reimagining Asian Diaspora Studies* York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR), York University, moderated by Dr. Elaine Coburn (CFR). In presence of Leena Manimekalai and Ishaa Chopra. October 24, 2022
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, *Challenging Stigma as a Family Member*, guest speaker January 2022
- FIVARS Virtual Reality Festival panel, October, 2019

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- CATR (Canadian Association for Theatre Research) Conference, Victoria, BC. *Re-embodiment the Archive: Rehearsing Diasporic Inheritance in "Kill Mama"*. Paper Panel 11: Practice, Process & Play. May 27, 2026.
- FMSAC (Film and Media Studies Association of Canada) Conference, St. John's. *Performing the Margins: Reimagining Feminist Edgework in "Kill Mama"*. Screening and discussion. May 20, 2026.
- AMPD-Sensorium Graduate Research Symposium. York University. *Rehearsing Memory: Over and Over and Over Again*. March 20, 2026
- FMSAC (Film and Media Studies Association of Canada) Graduate Colloquium, Ottawa. *Transgressive Grammars: Feminist Research-Creation and the Politics of Hybrid Media*. Paper presentation. March 1, 2026
- Connected Minds Retreat. *She Lives To Tell Her Tale*. Poster Presentation. February 24, 2026

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WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES continued

- The International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychoses, United States Chapter (ISPS-US) Conference. *Bridging The Divides: From Fragmentation to Society*. Film Screening and Discussion. November 9, 2025
- CIRCLE conference, Paper presentation. *Performing the Unsaid: Improvisation, Storytelling, and Diasporic Repair in South Asian Families*, October, 2025
- Theatre for Living 10-day *Training Workshop*. July 2025
- Children, Youth and Performance (CYP) Conference, *Interactive Workshop: Conversation with My Younger Self: Embodied Storytelling in Theatre Education*. June 2025
- Festival of Live Digital Arts [FOLDA] 2025 Connected Minds Internship Filmmaker Residency. June 2025
- Canadian Association for Theatre Research [CATR] 2025 Conference *On Interiority, "Practice Makes: An Iterative Approach to Developing Research (Creation) Methodology"*. Paper presentation. May 2025
- Children's Mental Health Ontario [CMHO Conference] "Like Mother, Like Daughter: Navigating Mental Health Through Connection and Empathy." Screening of documentary "Unfinished", created as a collaboration between mother and daughter, exploring their shared experiences navigating mental health. A workshop unpacking the caregiver experience. November 2024
- Children, Youth and Performance (CYP) Conference. June 2024
 - *Case Study: Unfinished Conversations: A dramaturgical methodology in developing character and story*
 - *Original Performance Excerpt: Devising Performance: A Methodology for Embodying Character, Movement, and Responsiveness*
- Education Conference, York University. *Beyond Taboos: Rethinking Education for a Changing World*. May 2024.

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES continued

- *Paper presentation: “Us” and “Them”*: Challenging boundaries of ethnicity and culture in the classroom.
 - Digital Storytelling course 2022-2023
 - *Co-facilitator* for workshop with organ transplant recipients for the ‘Frictions of Futurity and Cure in Transplantation Project’, University Health Network for Mental Health, University of Toronto. Mentoring process involved guiding their path towards healing through narrating their stories as short films and other digital media. Clinician lead: Suze G Berkhout, MD, PhD, FRCPC
 - *Mentored* the making of 2 short films with participants and participated in community meetings
 - Conceived and moderated participant-led workshop *Desire Lines* Fall 2023
 - CYP (Children, Youth and Performance) Conference, Organizer: Abigail Shabtay June 2023
 - *Original performance excerpt*: Devising Performance with Youth
 - Conceived and conducted day-long theatre workshop, in collaboration with Theatre and Performance Studies department, York University, *The Shape of Me: re-imagining family*, October 2022
 - Acting Workshop – Whistling Woods Institute, Mumbai, July 2019
 - Designed and led a 10-day *Acting-for-Camera* course using principles of role-play and improvisation.
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SHABNAM SUKHDEV

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Connected Minds, PhD Scholarship (using AI) 2024-2026
- CGS-SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship recipient 2023-2026
- Connected Minds, Internship Travel Grant 2025
- Susan Crocker & John Hunkin Award (PhD scholarship) 2022
- CILECT Prize, Best North American Student documentary, *Unfinished* 2022
- *Unfinished* nominated for Thesis Prize, York University 2021
- York Graduate Scholarship 2021
- George Vari Graduate Award, York University 2019
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship 2019
- Graduate Fellowship, York University 2018
- York Graduate Scholarship 2018
- Diversity Grant Recipient, Broadcast Educators Association of Canada 2017
- Fellowship, Films Division and Public Service Broadcasting Trust *Peacock Plume* 2016
- National Award for Best Biographical Reconstruction (awarded by the Government of India for documentary film the Last Adieu 2014
- Lisa Trofimova Video Prize, Film and Video Arts Society (FAVA) *Stranger in my own skin* 2007
- Alberta Motion Pictures Industry Association (AMPIA) 2007
- Edmonton Cultural Capital grant 2007
- Alberta Foundation for the Arts grant, *Stranger in my own Skin* 2006
- Mentorship grant 2007FAP (Filmmakers' Assistance Program) grant NFB 2006
- National Film Board (NFB) Reel Diversity Competition, for research on the Immigrant Youth Experience 2005
- Nominated for Alberta Motion Pictures Industry Award (AMPIA) *Stranger in my own skin* 2005
- Joe Viszmeg Documentary Prize, *Silhouettes & Shadows* 2005
- Nominated for the CBC Reel Diversity Competition *Silhouettes & Shadows** 2004
*title changed to *Ishaa Journals*
- Competition section 5th Mumbai International Film Festival *Alka: Child to Bride* 1998

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GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

1. EN 6580 – (audit) South Asian Diaspora: Literary Journeys – Vikrant Dadawala, 2025
2. PANF 7020 Advanced Research Methods – Janine Marchessault, 2025
3. Research Creation Lab – Magdalena Kazubowski-Houston, 2023
4. Devising Solo Performance – Erika Batdorf, 2023
5. Ethnography of Education – Rachel Silver, 2023
6. Summer Institute: “Eco Soma: Speculative Sensory Encounters with Bodies, & Environments in Change” – Rebecca Caines and Petra Kuppers, 2023
7. CDIS 6100 – (audit) Critical Disability Seminar – Geoffrey Reaume, 2023
8. Performance Ethnography - Magdalena Kazubowski-Houston, 2022
9. Theatre and Performances in the Americas - Alberto Guevara, 2022
10. Future Cinema – Caitlin Fisher, 2019
11. Process Cinema – Phil Hoffman, 2019
12. Documentary Workshop – Jennifer Baichwal, 2019
13. Directing Actors for Screen Performance – Tony Nardi, 2019
14. Selected Topics in Screenwriting – Marie Rickard, 2019
15. Production – John Greyson, 2018
16. Screenwriting – Howard Wiseman, 2018

CERTIFICATIONS

- *10-Day Theatre for Living Workshop July 2025*
- *TCPS 2: CORE: Research Ethics 2025*
- *ASIST Training (Suicide Prevention) CMHA, 2024*
- *Certificate in Personal Wellness and Learning Skills, York University, 2023*
- *Academic Integrity, 2023*
- *Proficiency in Online Teaching, York University, 2020*
- *Teaching Assistant Certificate in Teaching (TACT) 2019*
- *Certificate Record of Completion – Teaching Commons, York University 2019*
- *Certificate, Mental Health First Aid 2017*
- *Basic Emergency Management training, Durham College 2017*

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

FILM FESTIVALS AND SCREENINGS [select]

- University of Winnipeg. EDUC-5001 – Anticolonial Analysis of Mental Health Practices in Education. *Online Screening and Discussion, "Unfinished"*. Course Director: Jan DeFer. March 18, 2026
- ISPS-US Conference 2025, Chicago. *"Unfinished"*. *In-person screening and discussion*, November 9, 2025
- Mad Studies Hub *Unfinished* documentary screening. Nat Taylor Cinemas, York University. October 23, 2025
- *Unfinished* featured on *Tenk* – website for exceptional films, Montreal. 2023.
- Rendez-vous with Madness Film Festival, Toronto, Screening and Panel, *Unfinished*, Documentary Nov 5, 2023
- FOLDA Festival of Digital Arts June 2025, Resident Filmmaker
- Reel Abilities Film Festival, Toronto, *Unfinished*, Documentary May 11-19, 2023
- IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival 2023, Screening and Discussion *Unfinished* March 16, 2023
- Beyond Borders Feminist Film Festival 2022 (Online Edition), screening *Unfinished* under the theme "Mental Health, Disability and Us" December 2022
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), screening of *Unfinished* for Family Advisory Committee. June 21, 2023
- Get Reel Film Festival 2022. Screening and Panel *Unfinished* with director-producer Michelle Melle (*Drunk on too much life*) June 9, 2022
- Cinema South Film Festival 2022 Screening *Unfinished* Subtitled in Hebrew Nov 6 – 10, 2022
- International Competition Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) *Earth Crusader* 2018
- (IDSFFK), *Peacock Plume* 2016
- Audience Award section: Indian Film Festival, Stuttgart *Peacock Plume* 2016
- 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI-2016) *Earth Crusader* November 26, 2016
- Official selection IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival 2016 *Ishaa Journals* March 2016
- Official selection Peace Builders International Film Festival *Ishaa Journals* 12 October 2016
- Stuttgart Film Festival, Germany – screening and discussion *The Last Adieu* 2015
- Film and Television Institute of India – screening and discussion *The Last Adieu* 2015
- Flame University – screening and discussion *The Last Adieu* 2015
- Pune University – screening and discussion *The Last Adieu* 2015
- Competition section short-list: International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala
- Official selection Global Visions Film Festival, Edmonton *Stranger in my own skin* 2006

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Kill Mama | Autobiographical Fiction | In development

Unfinished | Documentary | 38 minutes | Canada | 2021

- Continues to participate widely at national and international film festivals, Conferences, and family and community events

...this instant | Hybrid Short | 6 minutes | Canada | 2020

- Streaming on *Greetings from Isolation* portal
<https://greetingsfromisolation.com/film/this-instant/>

Peacock Plume | Documentary | 50 minutes | India | 2018

Earth Crusader | Documentary | 55 minutes | India | 2016

The Last Adieu | Documentary | 70 minutes | India | 2014

- Continues to screen at national and international film festivals, universities

Veiled Voices & Machos | Community Video Arts projects | 2008

- Commissioned by the Edmonton Arts Council, Alberta

Ishaa Journals | Documentary | 39 minutes | India | 2006

Stranger in my own skin | 30-minutes | documentary | Canada | 2005

Journey Back Home | Documentary | 22 minutes | India | 2004

Telephone | Television fiction | 60 minutes | Star Plus | 2002

Gunaah | Television fiction | 60 minutes | Star Plus | 2002

Nirmala | Television fiction | 60 minutes | Zee TV network | 2001

Alka: Child to Bride | Documentary | 30 minutes | 1998

SELECT TELEVISION CREDITS, 1997-2002

- *Aap Jo Bolein* [interactive series] | Zee TV | 2000
 - *Kahaani Jurm Ki* | Miditec production for Doordarshan | 2000
 - *Mumkin* | Hindi prime time thriller | Home TV | 1999
 - *Zameen Aasmaan* | Hindi prime time soap opera | 1998
 - *Nazaraana* | Narrative Feature | Zee TV | 1997
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SHABNAM SUKHDEV

CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

- Centre for Brain Health Innovation [CABHI] Science Collaborative
 - Canadian Association for Theatre Research [CATR]
 - Film Media Studies Association of Canada [FMSAC]
 - South Asian Women's Centre [SAWC] Toronto
 - The Centre for AI and Society [CAIS] York University
 - Institute of Technoscience and Society, York University
 - York Centre for Asian Research [YCAR] York University
 - Sensorium Graduate Research Associate, York University
 - Women in Film and Television, Toronto [WIFT]
 - Documentary Organization of Canada [DOC]
 - Community-Based Research, Canada
 - Ontario Families and Caregivers Advisory Network [OFCAN]
 - Centre for Addiction and Mental Health [CAMH]
 - Distress and Crisis Ontario [DCO] Toronto
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SERVICE - Board

- Family Advisory Council, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2021- 2026
- Stella's Place, Family Advisory Council 2022-2026
- Distress Centres of Ontario – Crisis helpline volunteer 2021-2024
- Guelph Film Festiva 2021-2022
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Edmonton 2005-2006
- Global Visions Film Festival 2004-2005

Jury duties

- Student interview and selection *Shooting the Set* course led by John Greyson. April 2023
- International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala October 2021
- Austin Film Festival (film short-list) 2020
- International Kids Film Festival 2019
- International Student Film Festival, FTII 2013
- Global Visions Film Festival 2008
- Alberta Foundation for the Arts 2007
- Film and Video Arts Society 2007

SHABNAM SUKHDEV

SERVICE continued

Community Service

- *Helpline*, Distress Centres of Ontario 2022-2024
 - *Helpline*, Distress Centre Durham 2021
 - *Team leader* IMPACT AJAX, Town of Ajax 2017
 - *Filmmaking Workshop*, Library, Town of Ajax 2017
 - *Assistant teacher at A.G. Bell School*, Ajax 2017
 - *Planning Committee CANADA 150*, Town of Ajax 2016
-