



# History of PARC



**1912** Buildings on either side of PARC are built—1495 and 1501 Queen St. West



**1927** The Lakeview Bowling and Recreation Centre opens at 1499 Queen Street West



**1970s and 80s** de-institutionalization begins—Queen St. Mental Health Centre begins discharging “ex-psychiatric patients” into local boarding and rooming homes.

**1979** Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital shuts down.



**1980** PARC opens its doors at 1499 Queen Street West



**1981** 1495 Queen Street West is purchased and run as a 51-unit, unlicensed rooming house.



**Pat Capponi** hired and helps shift PARC’s focus to psychiatric survivor issues, quality of housing and the politics of poverty



**1990** Owners of PARC building go in to receivership; PARC Board of Directors decide to buy the building

**1991** PARC becomes the owner of 1499 Queen Street West. There are a few artist studios that remain on the property, whose owners continue their tenancy while PARC develops a business and development plan which is finalized in 1997s, funded in 1998 and construction begins June of 1999



**1995** PARC launches community housing support program, later known as POP and now as case management services



**1996** Edmond Yu evicted from 194 Dowling due to his “behaviour” and noise complaints

**1997** February 20th, Edmond Yu is fatally shot by police at Spadina Quay



**1998** Fire at 1495 Queen. Two tenants perish, 49 survivors left with nowhere to live



**2000** PARC creates 10 units of supported housing on third floor of 1499 as part of the renovation and retrofit. The board decides to offer commercial units to charitable/not for profit agencies only as a means of anchoring needed services, essentially creating a local service hub. Rents are based on a survey and then reflect the lower quartile of the rental market.

**2003** First Strategic Plan post-renovation creates vision that “PARC owns the block”

**2006** PARC’s mission to Rebuild lives goes to the general membership at the September AGM

**2006** 194 Dowling Ave expropriated by the City



**2007** PARC is successful proponent for re-development of 194 Dowling. Ambassador program created to address NIMBYism

**2008** Drop in open 7 days per week (Keeping the doors open)

**2009** The PARC development proposal of Edmond place goes to the Committee of Adjustment and the hearing lasts 90 seconds with 12 letters of support and no submissions against. The Ambassadors are elated.



**2009** Silver Brush commercial painting social enterprise launched to support housing program

**2010** Beyond Bread and Butter Report becomes “defacto” strategic plan for PARC

**2011** Edmond Place opens doors to 29 supportive housing units



**2015** Queen Street Hotel mass eviction emblematic of housing crisis in south Parkdale



**2016** PARC Strategic Plan 2016-2020  
PARC Awarded Canada 150 Grant for renovation



**2017** PARC becomes a United Way Anchor Agency

**2017** PNLT Rooming house study published



**2017** PNLT secures first property—the Milky Way Garden



**2017** PARC undertakes second floor renovation to better deliver hub services, increase space for commercial tenants and increase quality of space for PARC and current tenants