



The **Toronto Tool Libraries** are a project of IRBE, The Institute for a Resource-Based Economy.

### **Parkdale Tool Library**

#### **What:**

- A hub for commonly needed tools. Members pay \$50/year to access over \$50,000 worth of tools (at both locations).
- Also housing a branch of the Toronto Seed Library.
- 600 square feet, including a small space to house workshops and on-site instruction.
- To date we have 1,200 tools in inventory.
- We have a 100% tool return rate.
- Our estimated reach is +500 people in the community.
- Workshops and events.

#### **Where/When:**

- Located at 1499 Queen Street West, housed in the Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre (PARC) building basement.
- Founded in March 2013.
- Hours of operation:
  - Thursdays 3:00pm to 8:00pm
  - Saturdays 10:00am to 3:00pm
  - Sundays 11:00am to 4:00pm

#### **How**

- Received funding in the amount of \$14,500 from OTF (Ontario Trillium Foundation) and a \$20,000 Catapult micro-loan through the Centre for Social Innovation (for marketing and staffing).
- 300+ volunteer hours went into building the first tool library.

#### **Why**

- See IRBE mission and vision below. In short, IRBE values access over ownership and seeks to make concrete solutions to systemic problems.

### **East York Tool Library and Makerspace**

#### **What:**

- A hub for commonly needed tools.
- Also housing a branch of the Toronto Seed Library.
- 1900 square foot facility (3x size of Parkdale location).
- Members pay \$50/year to access over \$50,000 worth of tools (at both locations).
- Our East-end location also has an onsite “Makerspace” where hobbyists, artists, woodworkers and anyone interested can access and use more specialized tools onsite, such as:
  - 3D printers (Makerbot’s and open-source RepRap printers)
  - CNC router (Zenbot)
  - Lathe (wood and metal)
  - Largest open-source laser cutter in Toronto (Lasersaur)
  - Complete woodworking shop (table saw, jointer, band saw, etc)
- To date we have 700 tools in inventory
- We have a 100% tool return rate
- We house a kitchen library with items such as
  - Bread-makers
  - Pasta-makers
  - Ice-cream makers
  - Large pots and canning equipment
- Our estimated reach is 600+ people in the community.



- Workshops and events.

#### Where/When:

- Located at 1803 Danforth Ave (near Coxwell subway station)
- Doors opened in October 2013
- Hours of operation:
  - Wednesdays 4:00pm to 10:00pm
  - Saturdays 10:00am to 3:00pm
  - Sundays 11:00am to 4:00pm
- Open community night from 7:00pm to 10:00pm where anyone from the public can come and learn how to use the large scale tools.

#### How

- Received funding in the amount of \$35,000 from OTF (Ontario Trillium Foundation) and a \$20,000 Catapult micro-loan through the Centre for Social Innovation (for marketing and staffing).
- 500+ hours of volunteer hours went into building the second library

#### Why

- See IRBE mission and vision below. In short, IRBE values access over ownership and seeks to make concrete solutions to systemic problems.

### About IRBE

#### Mission:

IRBE works at the intersection of economics and the environment by challenging people's perceptions of ownership and our relationship to the Earth's resources.

#### Vision:

Today's dominant economic system has created unprecedented crises that exploit people and our planet. IRBE envisions a world that responds to these crises by sharing resources and creating resilient projects and communities, motivating us to our highest potential.

#### Projects and Plans for IRBE

- We have begun pilot projects for youth programming (January to March, 2014) and social-enterprise youth programming at our east-end Makerspace to begin in fall 2014
- We have begun adult workshops at our Makerspace (tool usage, specialized woodworking, 3D printing, Arduino programming, arts and crafts)
- We have organized speaker series (Bernard Lietaer, Jacqui Dunne, Charles Eisenstein, Gabor Maté)
- We have hosted several events at the Makerspace and intend to host events for every mainstream consumerist holiday (Christmas, valentine's day, Halloween, etc.):
  - Battle-bot event (youth and team leads build robots for competition)
  - Alternative gift fair (at Christmas season time)
  - Valentine's day event (wood you be mine?)
- Board expansion, diversity and governance development

### Contact info

Lawrence Alvarez | President IRBE  
lawrence@irbe.org | 416.420.4366

Ryan Dymnt | Executive Director IRBE  
ryan@irbe.org | 647.965.5604