Call for Research Proposals: Application and Implementation of Accessibility Principles at Queen's University

A key component of OPIRG Kingston's mandate is to foster campus and community based research to inspire and inform our broader work of education and action for a more socially and environmentally just Kingston and Queen's community. This year, OPIRG has allocated funds for a $750 research grant for a Queen's University student, or group of students, to conduct this research.

This grant will be used to examine how campus clubs, groups, activities, and non-academic spaces apply and practice principles of accessibility in the Queen's community. OPIRG envisions this project identifying areas of strength, where we are robustly understanding and implementing these principles, while also identifying areas for growth. At the end of this research project, OPIRG intends to use this research to develop plain language guides and materials for campus leaders to ultimately enhance our campus's accessibility. OPIRG strives to approach accessibility politics from a board base approach – while physical accessibility is critically important, we wish to also consider other elements as well.

Questions to frame a proposal:
1. How do campus clubs and non-academic spaces understand and apply accessibility principles? How do they practice these principles?
2. What role does systemic and institutional ableism play in maintaining and legitimizing inaccessible spaces, practices, and traditions?
3. How are other post-secondary institutions empowering campus leaders to enhance the accessibility of campus clubs, groups, activities, and non academic spaces?

Successful applicants:
1. are currently enrolled at Queen's University, ideally intending to return in the Fall,
2. have a demonstrated interest, academic or activist, in challenging ableism, or exploring concepts of access and accessibility,
3. must be able to complete their proposed project by August 2 2016,

Interested applicants should submit a 500-1000 word proposal outlining their project, how it relates to challenging ableism and inaccessibility at Queen's University, and why they are suitable to conduct and facilitate this research. Within their submission, applicants are encouraged to outline their understanding of accessibility.

After review of proposals, OPIRG will coordinate a follow up with selected applicants to further refine and develop shared expectations and timelines. We intend to have the selected applicant ready to begin their work for January 1 2016.

OPIRG Kingston strongly encourages undergraduate students to apply for this grant - we strongly believe that research should never be relegated exclusively to the graduate level. Collaborative efforts that span graduate/undergraduate, or different years of study are highly encouraged.

Completed submissions should be submitted by November 30, and can be emailed to info@opirgkingston.org.