

## **BACKGROUNDER: TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS**

### **The 2018 Recipients:**

#### **ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT**

##### **RISE Edutainment**

Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere (RISE) is a youth-led grassroots movement that provides opportunities and spaces for youth to develop artistically, socially, and spiritually. RISE creates safe and inclusive spaces that foster self-expression and healing through performance arts and storytelling. RISE came from a need by young people to have a safe space to express and be themselves; to tell their stories about their lives, their successes and challenges to inspire positive change.

The Arts for Youth Award is a \$20,000 cash prize, with finalists receiving \$2,000. The award celebrates an individual, collective or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to engaging Toronto's youth through the arts and artistic creation. The award was established in 2007 by Martha Burns, Jim Fleck, and Sandra and Jim Pitblado. The finalist awards are supported by a generous donation from Diana Bennett and Spencer Lanthier.

2018 finalists: The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery and UforChange

#### **CELEBRATION OF CULTURAL LIFE AWARD RECIPIENT**

##### **Ruth Howard**

Ruth Howard is the founding Artistic Director of Jumblies Theatre. She has created multi-year residencies in a series of Toronto neighbourhoods, resulting in large-scale productions and independent Offshoots. She has worked as a theatre designer and mentored many artists and organizations. Recent projects include the 2016 Touching Ground Festival, the Four Lands tour, and Round the Table, a musical meal.

The Celebration of Cultural Life Awards recognize excellence in three of Toronto's senior arts practitioners. One recipient will receive a \$10,000 cash prize and two finalists will each receive a \$2,000 cash prize. Each award, which embraces the spirit of Toronto Arts Council founding president William Kilbourn, celebrates an individual performer, teacher, administrator and/or creator in any arts discipline, including architecture and design, whose work is a celebration of life through the arts. The Celebration of Cultural Life Awards will be presented every two years. Established in 2017, these awards are generously sponsored by Arthur Dalfen.

2018 finalists: Ritesh Das and Dan Yashinsky

Kathleen Sharpe

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## **EMERGING ARTIST AWARD RECIPIENT**

### **Jivesh Parasram**

Jivesh Parasram is multidisciplinary artist, researcher, and facilitator of Indo-Caribbean descent. His work has played across Canada, and Internationally. He is the Artistic Producer at Pandemic Theatre and the Associate Artistic Producer at Theatre Passe Muraille. Jiv grew up in K'jipuktuk (Halifax) and currently endeavours to split his time between T'karón:to (Toronto) and the Unceded Coast Salish Territories (Vancouver).

The Emerging Artist Award is a \$10,000 cash prize, with finalists receiving \$2,000. The award celebrates the accomplishments and future potential of an emerging Toronto artist working in any discipline. Established in 2006, the award is generously sponsored by Susan Crocker and John Hunkin to support the development or completion of new work. The award given to finalist honourees was established in 2014 through the generous donation of the Bulmash-Siegel Fund. The recipient of the award receives a complimentary week long stay at Valleyview Artist Retreat.

2018 finalists: Britta Johnson and David Norsworthy

## **ROY THOMSON HALL AWARD OF RECOGNITION RECIPIENT**

### **The WholeNote**

Now in its 23rd year, The WholeNote is an independent, Toronto-based monthly print and online magazine, supporting live local musical culture. With 30,000 free copies per issue in print and an active website ([www.thewholenote.com](http://www.thewholenote.com)), the magazine publishes free event listings, reviews, columns and features, in genres from classical, new, and world music, to jazz, opera and musical theatre.

The Roy Thomson Hall Award of Recognition is a \$10,000 cash prize presented to an individual, ensemble or organization to recognize creative, performing, administrative, volunteer or philanthropic contributions to Toronto's musical life. This award was established by the Volunteer Committee of Roy Thomson Hall in 1984 to recognize and thank the community that supported the conception, building and establishment of the new concert hall. Toronto Arts Foundation has managed the award since 2002 on behalf of the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall.

2018 finalists: Mitchell Marcus and Musicworks

## **TORONTO ARTS AND BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS**

### **Active Green + Ross**

Lyndsay Ashby, Owner/Operator of Active Green+Ross #779 in Etobicoke, not only services her customer vehicles, she is also an active member in the community, contributing both time and services. Lyndsay was so engaged by The HopeWorks Connection, which provides arts programs to youth in marginalized communities, that she increased her first-time sponsorship within the same fiscal year.

### **RBC**

RBC recognizes that the arts play an important role in building vibrant communities and strong economies. The RBC Emerging Artists Project, which has supported over 8,000 artists since 2015, helps artists to bridge the gap from emerging to established by supporting organizations that provide the best opportunities to advance their career trajectory.

The Toronto Arts and Business Award celebrates a local business that has made an important contribution to the arts in Toronto through innovative and transformational partnerships. New in 2018, the award is being presented in two parts: the first recognizes a business for its long-standing significant support of Toronto's arts community and the second for a different business that is new to arts sponsorship. Established in 2006, this award is presented in partnership with Toronto Arts Foundation, Business for the Arts and The Toronto Star.

## **APPOINTMENT OF JURORS**

Each year, a jury of up to 10 members reviews candidate profiles and makes finalist and recipient recommendations for each award, excepting the Toronto Arts and Business Award, to Toronto Arts Foundation's Board of Directors, which approves final determinations. Jury members must have recognized expertise, prestige, credibility and experience along with a sense of history and perspective. Each jury is comprised of participants who are practitioners of the arts, organizers, programmers, producers, curators, critics, commentators and lay specialists.

The 2018 jurors were: **Maddie Bautista**, theatre-maker and sound designer, **Denise Bolduc**, creative leader, **Maureen Dodig**, Toronto Arts Foundation board member, **Loie Fallis**, Vice-President of Artistic Planning with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, **Patty Jarvis**, Interim Associate Director, Education and Outreach at the Canadian Opera Company, **Mafa Makhubalo**, dancer and choreographer, **Nikki Shaffeeullah**, theatre-maker and community-engaged artist, **Geneviève Wallen**, independent curator and writer.

The Toronto Arts and Business Awards are assessed by a separate jury. The 2018 jurors were: **Leen Al Zaibak**, Chair of Toronto Arts Foundation's Emerging Leaders and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of International Relations and Protocol, Ontario Cabinet Office, **Maxine Bailey**, Vice President Advancement, TIFF, **Nichole Anderson Bergeron**, President and CEO, Business for the Arts, **Richard Paquet**, Vice Chair, Toronto Arts Foundation and Product Design and Development Consultant at Richard Paquet Inc.

Toronto Arts Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its supporters, who have provided over 2,000 complimentary tickets to the Mayor's Arts Lunch over the last 13 years to artists, arts organizations and arts volunteers, on a rotating basis, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the creative vitality of Toronto.

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