



BACKGROUND: TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION AWARDS AND 2022 FINALISTS

ABOUT – TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION AWARDS

The Toronto Arts Foundation Awards celebrate artistic excellence and recognize the contributions of artists and arts supporters, across disciplines, to creative city-building in Toronto. Financial support of the awards is provided through a combination of legacies and annual donations from private and corporate donors. The awards are presented annually at the Mayor's Arts Lunch.

ABOUT - ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD

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. The award is sponsored by Martha Burns, Jim Fleck, and Sandra and Jim Pitblado. The finalist prizes are sponsored by Diana Bennett and Spencer Lanthier.

FINALISTS

Erin Brubacher

Erin Brubacher is a multidisciplinary artist and community activator. She has a long history of leading performance projects that amplify teenage voices, both within institutions and as an independent artist. In all of her work, she aims to follow the tenet that how things are made shapes what is made.

Flaunt It Movement

The Flaunt It Movement & Collection ("Flaunt-It") is a grassroots youth-led social purpose organization that fosters self-love and highly-esteemed representation for women in the arts, entrepreneurship and activism. Their community artist collective and resident-led social enterprise's programming both celebrate and empower women, femmes and nonbinary folks' self-esteem, representation, and leadership.

Never Gallery Ready

Never Gallery Ready delivers media-literacy-focused multidisciplinary arts programs in schools, libraries and museums. Since 2006, youth participants have created over 10,000 artworks ranging from paper collage to digital art, animation, and augmented reality. Their learning resources and #WeMakeMedia podcast expand conversations about content creation, digital literacies and media futures.

ABOUT - BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST AWARD

The Breakthrough 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. In 2021 the Emerging Artists Award was renamed the Breakthrough Artist Award and the age restriction for recipients was removed. The award is sponsored by Susan Crocker and John Hunkin.

FINALISTS

Nathan Cole

Nathan Cole is a visual artist, photographer, writer, and aspiring naturalist. His practice is based on the exploration of the natural world both physically and visually, drawing inspiration from artist residencies in Costa Rica, India, and Spain. He is best known for his intricate and emotional wildlife scratchboard portraits.

Shelly Grace

Shelly Grace is a spoken word poet and photographer. She uses her art for community building and healing, focusing on the experiences of women and the Black community. In 2019 she won the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word. She has worked with TDSB, Vibe Arts, CBC Arts, and more.

Eponine Lee

Eponine Lee was born and raised in Toronto. Still in high school, she's leading an accomplished career in film, theatre and music. Eponine was awarded Best Breakout Performance at the 2020 Canadian Film Fest for Queen of the Morning Calm, and Now Magazine's Breakthrough Toronto Stage Artist 2019.

ABOUT - CELEBRATION OF CULTURAL LIFE AWARD

The Celebration of Cultural Life Award is a \$10,000 cash prize, with finalists receiving \$2,000. The award recognizes excellence in Toronto's senior arts practitioners; 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 2022 recipient prize is sponsored by Maureen and Victor Dodig. In addition to the prize money, the 2022 recipient will receive a complimentary week-long stay at Valleyview Artist Retreat.

FINALISTS

Esmeralda Enrique

Esmeralda Enrique is one of the most celebrated Flamenco dance artists in Canada. Founder of the Academy of Spanish Dance and the Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company, her spirit and energy over the last 40 years have helped make flamenco a vibrant, driving force in the Canadian dance landscape.

Joy McFadyen

Joy McFadyen joined the Art Guild of Scarborough in 1970 and is still a member. She's served on its Board in several positions and as president for 25 years on 4 occasions. She was on the founding Board of the Scarborough Arts Council for 6 years, first as secretary and then as president.

Dwayne Morgan

Dwayne began his career in the spoken word in 1993. He has published 14 written and 9 audio collections of his work, toured 18 countries internationally, and been inducted to the Scarborough Walk of Fame. He works tirelessly to create platforms for other radicalized artists.

ABOUT – TORONTO ARTS AND BUSINESS AWARD

Every year at the Mayor's Arts Lunch, a local business that has made an important contribution to the arts in Toronto, through innovative and transformational partnerships, is recognized with the Toronto Arts and Business Award. Winners range from national financial institutions and real estate development to small design firms and local businesses. Presented in partnership with Toronto Arts Foundation, Business/Arts and the Toronto Star, this award was established in 2006.

A recipient has been selected by an independent Toronto Arts and Business Award committee.

RECIPIENT

Meridian Credit Union

With more than 75 years of banking history, Meridian is Ontario's largest credit union, and second largest in Canada. Delivering on exceptional banking service and advice, they help grow the lives of over 370,000 members while dedicating a portion of their profits to supporting local communities thrive.

APPOINTMENT OF PEER ASSESSORS

Each year, a panel 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. Peer Assessors must have recognized expertise, prestige, credibility and experience, along with a sense of history and perspective. Each panel is comprised of participants who are practitioners of the arts, organizers, programmers, producers, curators, critics, commentators and lay specialists.

ASSESSMENT PANEL

The assessment panel for the 2022 Arts For Youth Award, Breakthrough Artist Award and Celebration of Cultural Life Award was comprised of active Toronto artists and arts professionals **Cynthia Lickers Sage, Syrus Marcus Ware, Ruth Howard** and **Sarah Thawer**. An independent committee selected the recipient of the Toronto Arts and Business Award.