MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the virtual Mayor’s Arts Awards Lunch hosted by Toronto Arts Foundation. Although we cannot gather in person, it is important that we take the time to celebrate Toronto’s creative community and its artistic excellence.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us the importance of our arts and culture sector and it has also shown us the need to support the sector as you all navigate these challenging times.

I am always pleased to support Toronto Arts Foundation’s vision for a vibrant and creative city where every neighbourhood is enriched through art. Toronto is a leader in arts and culture and we must continue to demonstrate that commitment to a sector that makes our city a better place to live. We recognize that your hard work and dedication greatly contribute to this reputation, so thank you for all that you have done for our city and the arts.

Congratulations to the award recipients who have advanced our City’s arts scene. It is important to recognize the artists and arts supporters who have successfully contributed to our great city.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.

Yours truly,

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

A MESSAGE FROM KATHLEEN SHARPE & CLAIRE HOPKINSON

Welcome to the 15th annual Mayor’s Arts “Lunch.” On behalf of Toronto Arts Foundation, we want to thank you for joining us as we spotlight the artists and arts organizations whose work helps shape and strengthen this creative city.

As we cannot be together in person, we recognize that this year’s event is different than previous years, but we feel that now more than ever Toronto’s artists deserve a day to celebrate and be celebrated.

Over the past months while the country has grappled with COVID-19, Canadians have turned to the arts to find solace, inspiration, and comfort. The arts have the power to bring people together, even when gathering may not be possible. They open minds, highlight shared experiences, and remind us of the future that we wish to build.

The finalists this year are all champions, exhibiting artistic excellence and leadership in their field. Toronto Arts Foundation is proud to recognize their contributions to the City of Toronto and share their stories. In addition to our 2020 finalists, this year we are also delighted to be celebrating Toronto Arts Foundation’s 25th anniversary and the many incredible past award recipients we have recognized through the years thanks to the generous contributions of private supporters and corporate donations.

Thank you for being a part of our celebration, and for joining us today to honour these outstanding artists!

Kathleen Sharpe, Chair
Toronto Arts Foundation

Claire Hopkinson, M.S.M.
Director & CEO
Toronto Arts Council & Toronto Arts Foundation
**JESSE WENTE HOST**

Jesse Wente is a cultural leader in Canada’s film industry. The former Director of Film Programming at Toronto International Film Festival, and currently the Director of Indigenous Screen Office, he has also been a popular culture critic and broadcaster with the CBC for twenty years. Jesse is an avid and well-spoken advocate for Aboriginal Arts, most notably on screen. He has served as President at Native Earth Performing Arts, Canada’s oldest Indigenous Performing Arts company, as well as on the Board of Directors of Toronto Arts Council and ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Canada Council for the Arts.

**ERROL NAZARETH HOST**

Errol Nazareth is a highly respected music journalist and CBC Radio host. He’s been playing professionally with words for over 20 years, and has written for The Toronto Sun and the alternative weeklies NOW Magazine and Eye Weekly. Aside from co-producing and hosting Big City Small World every Saturday on CBC Radio 1 in Toronto, he’s hosted national shows and guested on some of CBC Radio’s flagship shows. Errol teaches two courses in Humber College’s Radio Broadcasting program, as well as two Media Writing courses and a Music Journalism course at Centennial College. He has also taught journalism at Centennial and at Ryerson University. He’s judged three butter tart festivals in Ontario over the last few years and was sampled by Public Enemy on one of its records.

**MOLLY JOHNSON ARTIST: ENTERTAINMENT**

Known as one of Canada’s greatest voices, award-winning jazz vocalist Molly Johnson is a mother, singer-songwriter, artist and philanthropist. Molly has performed throughout Canada, the United States, and France among many renowned artists. She has been awarded the Queen’s Jubilee medal, and in 2008, was honoured with becoming an Officer of The Order Of Canada (O.C.) in recognition for her philanthropic work and international contributions to the arts. A former Toronto Arts Foundation Award recipient, in 2009 Molly won a Juno Award for Best Vocal Jazz Album for “Lucky,” and received the 2009 National Jazz Award for Best Female Vocalist. In 2016, Molly launched the Kensington Market Jazz Festival, which showcases 150+ shows over one weekend in September to more than 5000 music fans. Her most recent album, “Meaning To Tell Ya,” was released in 2018.

**AMBER WILLIAMS-KING ARTIST: PORTRAIT ART**

Amber Williams-King is a multi-disciplinary Antiguan artist practicing in Tkaronto. Using various mediums, they explore the multiplicities of being including race, sexuality, gender and disability. Collaborating with various grassroots collectives, their illustrative work seeks to archive social movements and investigate the political landscape of these times. In 2017, they were a finalist for Toronto Arts Foundation’s Emerging Artist Award.
ABOUT THE AWARD COMMISSION

Each year the Foundation commissions the creation of an original artwork. An individual artist or artist collective is selected to create a unique art piece which commemorates the award program. This artwork is produced in a multiple of ten, with the first seven in the edition presented to award recipients. The commissioning program enables the Foundation to support the development of new work and to further recognize the contributions of its award recipients with original art by some of Toronto’s most important visual artists.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY & STATEMENT: LUIS JACOB

Luis Jacob’s work destabilizes viewing conventions and invites an awareness of historical reversal: we, who are present today, will one day have been a thing of the past.

Based in Toronto, Luis Jacob’s work destabilizes viewing conventions and invites collisions of meaning. Since participating in documenta12 in 2007, he has achieved an international reputation — with exhibitions at the Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart, and the Toronto Biennial of Art (2019); Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal (2018); Museroom, Bolzano, Italy (2017); La Biennale de Montréal (2016); Tanza Bonakdar Gallery, New York (2015); Taipeh Biennial (2012); Generali Foundation, Vicenza (2011); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010); and Hamburg Kunstverein (2008). In 2016 he curated the exhibition “Born Follows Fiction: Art and Artists in Toronto” at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto.

ALEXX BOISJOLI, CERAMICIST

Alexx Boisjoli runs a small production studio based in Toronto. Trained in design at the University of Toronto.

Walter Cheah's book was published – “To the Citizens of Toronto - Past and Present.” Connecting different tenses of time which are rooted in the same place, “The Dedication” celebrates an awareness of historical reversal: we, who are present today, will one day have been a thing of the past.

AWARD PLATE COMMISSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Artist</th>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Rajni Perera</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Syrus Marik Ware</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Kent Monkman</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Stephen Andrews</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Shary Boyle</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Jennifer Hamman and Daniel Bornis</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Louise Nopuchii</td>
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<td>An Te Liu</td>
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<td>Katie Bethune Leamen</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Jon Sasaki</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Cecilia Berkovic</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Julie Voyer</td>
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THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

WHO SELECTS THE FINALISTS AND AWARD RECIPIENTS?

Toronto Arts Foundation makes decisions about its award finalists and winners through the peer review process, meaning that all Finalists are evaluated by a panel of professional artists and arts administrators. This conforms to the process used by Toronto Arts Council and is led by the Council’s Strategic Programs Manager Rupal Shah and the Council’s Music Program Manager Christy DiFelice. The peer review process is a valuable tool in ensuring transparency and a fair and thorough assessment.

FOUNDATION SIGNATURE AWARD PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Aida Aydiyian is the General Manager at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Her professional experience spans more than 25 years, including senior leadership roles with arts organizations in Armenia, the United States and Canada. She believes strongly in the power of collaboration within and across organizations, sectors, borders and disciplines.

Annalie Bonda is the Executive Director of The Remix Project. A Filipino folk dancer, Annalie lives in Toronto’s vibrant Queen West arts neighborhood. She is a passionate arts leader skillfully combining business acumen and partnerships to steward career professional connections for youth while building and maintaining safe community spaces.

Cyn Rozeboom is the Executive Director of Tangled Art + Disability. She has over 25 years of experience in the non-profit arts sector as a fundraiser, communications specialist, artist, and administrator. Her career highlights include founding the Art of the Danforth festival, serving as the inaugural Managing Director of East End Arts and helping establish the Next Stage Festival during her tenure at the Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival.

Julian Sleath has worked in Canada for the past twenty years, initially as the Technical Director for the Canadian Opera Company. He was the Programme Manager for Special Events at the City of Toronto and spent two years in the mountains of Banff as Executive Director of Performing Arts. He returned to Toronto in 2017 to set up The Bentway and is currently involved in a number of artistic projects.

Raoul Olou is a multidisciplinary artist based in Toronto, whose work focuses on home, belonging and archiving the mundane. Recently, Olou was selected by the Akin Studio Program as one of 30 artists to move their studios into the newly opened Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto.

Régine Cadet is the General Manager of Theatre Passe Muraille. She spent 12 years as Artistic and Executive Director of MAI – Montreal, Arts Intercultures. Before that, she trained at the Haitian American Academy of Ballet and Arts, and founded Ekpensyon Dance Company after arriving in Canada. Régine is the President of the Board at TAPA – Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts.
EMERGING JAZZ ARTIST AWARD PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Rodriguez was born in Havana, Cuba and is a classically trained violinist. Since moving to Canada in 2013 she has been pursuing her musical career as a singer and violinist for several bands including the Juno winning bands of Jane Bunnett & Maqueque and The Battle of Santiago. Along with Magdelys Savigne, Elizabeth co-leads the ensemble OKAN, which fuses Afro-Cuban and other global rhythms with jazz, folk and classical forms.

Jeremy Ledbetter is a Canadian pianist, composer and producer and is the driving force behind Caribbean Latin Jazz powerhouse CaneFire, and the longtime musical director and producer for calypso superstar David Rudder. Jeremy's newest project, the Jeremy Ledbetter Trio, featuring Ledbetter at the piano, and fellow Canadian jazz heavyweights Rich Brown (rinsethealgorithm) and Larnell Lewis (Snarky Puppy), released their debut album "Got a Light?" in 2018.

Joy Lapps-Lewis is a Canadian musician, composer, academic and arts educator of Antiguan and Barbudan descent whose proficiency with the tenor steelpan is known internationally. She leads The Joy Lapps Project, an ensemble exploring Afro and Latin-Caribbean Jazz, with a hint of R&B and soul, and has educated hundreds of people through her demonstrations at schools, libraries and community spaces. Lapps-Lewis is currently working on new music for her upcoming album.

Trumpeter Josh Grossman is the founding Artistic Director and Conductor for the Toronto Jazz Orchestra (TJO), an 18-piece big band featuring some of Toronto's top jazz talent. Now in its 20th year, the TJO has released four full-length recordings. Since 2010, Josh has served as Artistic Director for Toronto Downtown Jazz (TDJ), which each year presents the TD Toronto Jazz Festival, one of Canada's largest international music festivals. In 2017 Josh completed a 6-year term as a member of the Toronto Arts Council (TAC) Music Committee, including four years as the Committee's co-chair and a member of the TAC Board of Directors.

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Collette Murray is a dance educator, mentor, contributing writer, performer and cultural arts programmer. Also known as “Miss Coco,” her mobile dance education business includes traditional West African drum/dance and Caribbean folk dance. Engaged in Caribbean and African arts for over 17 years, this award-winning artist is one of 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women in 2020 and was last year's recipient of the Toronto Arts Foundation Community Arts Award. Currently, Collette is a PhD candidate in Dance Studies at York University.

Anique Jordan is an artist, award-winning writer, educator, curator and entrepreneur. Her recent work thinks about working class aesthetics, time travel, invisibility, Caribbean carnival, and Black Canadian futurities. In 2017 Jordan was awarded the Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist award, she recently completed a 2017-2018 artist residency at the University of the West Indies (Trinidad and Tobago) and is the 2018-19 Osgoode Hall Law School Artist-in-Residence.

Julian Carvajal is a colourful Colombian-Canadian Queer Latinx Media Artist, Arts Manager, Producer and Cultural Promoter. He has worked for 5 years at Art Starts as a Special Projects Manager, while also producing the largest PanAmerican Food and Music Festival, Julian is currently working at North York Arts as the coordinator for their Seniors Animation Program & Second Act Program and is also facilitating a digital storytelling program for seniors.

Kristina McMullin is a designer and communicator. She has designed, promoted, and produced deliverables, events, and exhibitions through her work at Tangled Art + Disability, and is an advocate for Disability Arts, frequently serving as a presenter, panelist and speaker within Toronto’s arts and culture sector and across North America. Kristina’s dedication to continuous improvement gives life to her passion for access and inclusion.

Mahad Shoaib aka “arXade” is a passionate fundraiser, wizard of evaluation, producer of music, and a lover of language. Mahad immigrated to Canada eleven years ago and one of his fondest memories of the country is experiencing HipHop through the Unity Day Assembly in 2008. Since then, he has gone from being a Unity program alumni to volunteer to Unity Artist, and now works full-time as Unity's Development and Evaluations Coordinator. Mahad has a degree from York University where he focused on public health and community work.
The Celebration of Cultural Life Awards recognize excellence in Toronto’s senior arts practitioners. The awards, which embrace 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 recipient will receive a $10,000 cash prize and two finalists will each receive a $2,000 cash prize. The Celebration of Cultural Life Awards are presented every two years. Established in 2017, these awards are generously sponsored by Arthur Dalfen.

CELEBRATION OF CULTURAL LIFE AWARDS

KAREN & ALLEN KAEGA

Co-Artistic Directors of Kaeja d’Dance for over 30 years, Karen and Allen Kaeja are choreographers, performers and idea originators. They create and tour contemporary dance performances for stage and film throughout the world, as well as collaborate with and celebrate artists and everyday people of all ages and practices. They present local and international dance artists in Toronto through festival platforms, commissions and mentorships. Passionate engagers of professional and community dance art bridging, they create acclaimed performance forums outside of the box, such as Porch View Dances. Kaeja has received 40+ awards & nominations.

“We move with every breath, every second of our lives. Recognizing that the bodies we inhabit are quite literally dancing in miniscule ways all the time, it is wonderful to bring that recognition to people.”

Twitter: @KaejaDDance
Instagram: @kaejaddance
Facebook: /KaejadDance
Website: kaeja.org

Original photo courtesy of Aria Evans

PAST RECIPIENTS
2018 Ruth Howard
Previously the William Kilbourn Award
2016 David Buchbinder
2014 Philip Akin
2012 Jini Stolk
2010 Mallory Gilbert
2008 Thomas Hendry
2006 Albert Schultz
2004 Djanet Sears
2002 Joy Hughes
2000 Rina Singh
1998 Doris McCarthy

THE MAYOR’S ARTS LUNCH 2020 | 9
RYAN RICE

Ryan Rice, Kanien’kehá:ka, is an independent curator and an Associate Dean at OCAD University. His career spans 25 years in the curatorial field. Recent curated projects include; “raise a flag: work from the Indigenous Art Collection 2000-2015,” You’re Welcome, Listen to the Land, and BAIT: Work by Couzyn van Heuvelen.

“An award such as this, and its juried recognition, aligns with my aspiration to champion creativity and Indigenous visual culture through curatorial practice, education and public engagement.”

Twitter: @aroniienes
Instagram: @aroniienes

ORIGINAL PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN

SANDRA LARONDE

FINALIST
Arts innovator and leader Sandra Laronde has conceived, produced and disseminated programming that is Indigenous, multi-national, multi-and-interdisciplinary and intergenerational in scope. She is the Executive and Artistic Director of Red Sky Performance, a Toronto-based company that is a leader of contemporary indigenous performance in Canada and worldwide.

Twitter: @redskyconnect
Website: redskyperformance.com
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.

PAST RECIPIENTS
2019 Joshua Vettivelu
2018 Jivesh Paraasram
2017 Anique Jordan
2016 Benjamin Kamino
2015 Emilie Lebel
2014 Jordan Tamahill
2013 Daniel Karasik
2012 Chris Curreri
2011 Adam Garret Jones
2010 Jamie Travis
2009 Arunee Roy
2008 Weyni Mengesha
2007 d’bi.young.anitafrika
2006 Natasha Mytnowsycz

“In a city that is exploding with creativity and thousands of artists, to be selected as a finalist and represent this category as a poet is extremely special.”

Twitter: @missbrittab
Instagram: @missbrittab
Website: brittab.com

Original photo courtesy of Gilad Cohen

Britta B.
FINALIST
Britta B. is a Kingston-born, Toronto-based poet, spoken word performer, emcee and artist educator. Her works have featured in print, in sound and onstage across North America. She is an alumna of the Toronto Arts Council Leaders Lab and Bariﬀ Centre for Arts and Creativity Spoken Word Residency. Britta is currently a Creative Writing MFA candidate at University of Guelph.
JES SACHSE

Presently living in Tkaronto, jes sachse is an artist, writer and choreographer who addresses the negotiations of bodies moving in public/private space and the work of their care. Often found marrying poetry with large scale sculptural forms, their work has been presented and supported by 7a*11d Performance Art Festival, Dancemakers, the Centre de Création et Recherche O Vertigo, Musagetes, Harbourfront Centre, among other centres.

Twitter: @kidcrooked
Instagram: @squirrelofmystery
Website: jessachse.com

“The never saw myself in the classical works I studied in Art History; in fact, it was my frustration with the constant misrepresentation that fuelled my desire to counter these notions and ideas, and bring my own lived experiences to the forefront of my practice.”

LEILA FATEMI

Leila Fatemi is an emerging artist, curator and community arts worker based in Tkaronto/Toronto. Living between cultures, her work and curatorial endeavours stem from her daily experiences as a visible minority and her perspective as a practicing Muslim woman artist. Fatemi aims to provide platforms and contribute alternative narratives to conversations of ethnic representation with a focus on the experience of Muslim women & women from the MENA region as well as to create a better understanding and appreciation for Islamic culture and traditions.

Instagram: @localeila
Website: leilafatemi.com

“I never saw myself in the classical works I studied in Art History; in fact, it was my frustration with the constant misrepresentation that fuelled my desire to counter these notions and ideas, and bring my own lived experiences to the forefront of my practice.”
The Community Arts Award is a $10,000 cash prize celebrating an individual artist or organization that has made a significant contribution in Toronto, by working collaboratively with culturally diverse communities and creating access to arts and culture. Finalists receive $1,000 each. Established in 2013 as the Diversity Award, the award was re-named the Community Arts Award in 2018. This award is generously sponsored by MOD Developments Inc., and is administered by the Foundation’s Neighbourhood Arts Network.

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD

Since 2011, The Esplanade – one of downtown Toronto’s most diverse communities – has been enlivened by the local arts group Jamii (Swahili for “community”). Through the production of over 120 memorable arts-based experiences that recognize and celebrate all people and genders while nurturing female leadership, Jamii strengthens community and lifts spirits.

PAST RECIPIENTS
2019 Colette ‘Miss Coco’ Murray
2018 UrbanArts
2017 Syrus Marcus Ware
2016 Regent Park Film Festival
2015 Mammalian Diving Reflex

“...This nomination goes to the hundreds of artists who define Jamii; to the hundreds of Esplanadians who have participated in arts-making with us; to those who have worked with us through the years, paid or unpaid, including directors of our board; and to those who kept on encouraging us in their own way during our journey.”

Twitter: @jamiiEsplanade
Instagram: @jamiiEsplanade
Facebook: /Jamii.Esplanade
Website: jamii.ca

Original photo courtesy of Laura Dittmann

FINALIST

Since 2011, The Esplanade – one of downtown Toronto’s most diverse communities – has been enlivened by the local arts group Jamii (Swahili for “community”). Through the production of over 120 memorable arts-based experiences that recognize and celebrate all people and genders while nurturing female leadership, Jamii strengthens community and lifts spirits.
MUSE ARTS

FINALIST

MUSE ARTS (a.k.a Sick Muse Art Projects) works to increase support, access and visibility to immigrant, refugee and newcomer artists and their communities. They develop community art programs that integrate arts and social justice, including HAPPENING Multicultural, the annual Multi-Arts Festival, the creation of community murals, and their international Community Arts Residence and Cultural Exchange Program.

“We know that we need to use our place of influence to continue promoting and creating spaces for all to live with dignity, and with possibility of reaching their full potential.”

Twitter: @MuseArtsTO
Instagram: @museartsto
Facebook: /Museartsto
Website: musearts.ca

Original photo courtesy of: Alex Usquiano

UNIT 2

FINALIST

Unit 2 is an arts and community space that is run by a collective of artist-activists whose affiliations span the QT2S (Queer, Trans, Two-Spirit), BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), mad, and crip communities. They centre and serve artists-activists with any or all of these affiliations, thus supporting and investing in their core community with a “for us, by us” approach.

“Without the support of our community we could not have survived.”

Instagram: @unit2communityspace
Facebook: /Unit2Unit2
Website: unit2.club

Original photo courtesy of Unit 2
CONCORD ADEX

RECIPIENT
Concord Adex has been building Canada’s largest lifestyle-forward urban communities for over 30 years. These communities are globally renowned for their vibrant urban planning, as the developer is Canada’s most substantial contributor of city parks and privately funded public art. In addition to their design sustained neighbourhoods, the company’s green energy arm generates twice the amount of energy needed to power them.

“The public art helps us give a sense of personality to our developments and it also enables us to be part of the cultural growth of Toronto and of Canada.”

Website: concordpacific.com
Original photo courtesy of Concord Adex

TORONTO ARTS AND BUSINESS AWARD

The Toronto Arts and Business Award recognizes a business or corporation that has made an important contribution to the arts in Toronto through innovative and transformational partnerships. Recipients have ranged from national financial institutions and real estate developers to small design firms and local businesses. In 2020, in recognition of the upcoming Year of Public Art, the award celebrates a business or corporation that has fully-funded or contributed a significant amount to art for public space. Presented in partnership with Toronto Arts Foundation, Business/Arts, and the Toronto Star, this award was established in 2006.

PAST RECIPIENTS
2019 Gladstone Hotel
2018 RBC and Active Green+Ross
2017 Aviv Restaurant
2016 Bridgewater Family Wealth Services
2015 The Working Group
2014 Heights Development Inc.
2013 Sun Life Financial
2012 Daniels Corporation
2011 TD Financial Group
2010 BMO Financial Group
2009 Scotiabank Group
2008 Torys LLP
2007 Robert Lowrey’s Piano Experts
2006 CIBC Mellon

PANELISTS
Gillian Smith, Toronto Arts Foundation Board Member, Principal Consultant & Advisor, Gillian Smith Consulting
Nichole Anderson Bergeron, President & CEO, Business for the Arts
Leen Al Zalabak, Chair, Emerging Leaders, Toronto Arts Foundation, Co-founder and Director, Jusoor Canada
Shawn Micallef, columnist with The Toronto Star, Co-founder of Spacing magazine
Rebecca Carbin, Principal, Art + Public Ltd.
The Emerging Jazz Artist Award is a $10,000 cash prize with finalists receiving $1,000. The award furthers the career of an outstanding emerging jazz artist and is intended to support the pre-production, production, and/or recording of original music composed by the recipient. Established in 2014, the award is supported by Cheryl and Manuel Buchwald.

**EMERGING JAZZ ARTIST AWARD**

**LAUREN FALLS**

Canadian bassist Lauren Falls has made a big impact on the Toronto and New York jazz scenes. She has performed at numerous jazz festivals and staple Toronto venues. An accomplished composer, she has released a debut album of original music called *The Quiet Fight* and is currently working on her second album *A Little Louder Now* to be released in 2021. Lauren holds a master’s degree in Jazz Performance from Manhattan School of Music as well as a bachelor’s degree in jazz performance from Humber College in Toronto.

“Being a musician and composer can be a solitary exercise at times; the importance of recognition and support cannot be overstated.”

Instagram: @laurenfallsmusic

YouTube: Lauren Falls

Website: laurenfallsmusic.com
MATT LAGAN

FINALIST
Saxophonist, composer and bandleader Matt Lagan is one of the most up-and-coming saxophonists in Canada. He has toured to 12 countries with the iconic Shuffle Demons and is featured on their 2020 release _Crazy Time_. He is currently working on his debut album with the Matt Lagan Band.

“T oronto is saturated with talented artists from all across the country. To be recognized as one of three exciting young artists in this vibrant city is truly an honour.”

Instagram: @mattlaganmusic
Facebook: /mattlaganmusic
YouTube: Matt Lagan
Website: mattlagan.com

Original photo courtesy of Gianfranco Pipitone

MATT LAGAN

JESSE RYAN

FINALIST
Trinidad-born saxophonist and composer Jesse Ryan has been praised as a fresh new voice, with a unique perspective on the music of today. His Bridges project is an emerging, eclectic quintet that bridges both the jazz and Afro-Caribbean traditions - A true celebration of the cultural, rhythmic and expressive connections between North America and the islands.

“One of the first things that attracted me to jazz was the fact that it creates a space where the collective is more important than the individual. A space for collaboration, cultural exchange, and where old and new worlds meet.”

Twitter: @jesseryanbmuzik
Instagram: @jesseryamuzik
Facebook: /jesseryamuzik
Website: jesseryanmuzik.com

Original photo courtesy of Robin Sass
ROY THOMSON HALL AWARD OF RECOGNITION

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. It is presented every two years.

PAST RECIPIENTS
2018 The Whole Note
2016 Ritesh Das
2014 Michie Mee
2012 Lydia Adams
2010 Jose Ortega
2008 Richard Underhill
2006 Jeanne Lamon
2004 Molly Johnson
2002 Roger D. Moore

ROY THOMSON HALL AWARD OF RECOGNITION

MURRAY FOSTER

FINALIST
Murray Foster, a Juno-nominated former member of Moxy Fruvous and Great Big Sea, is Professor of Music at Seneca College and the founder of Toronto Songwriting School, The Urban Orchestra, and Choir Nation. He wrote and directed 2015’s The Cocksure Lads Movie and is writing the musical Chelsea Sunrise through Sheridan College.

“I’d like to use this nomination to draw attention to something that has decimated the ranks of musicians over the last few years, which is the urgent and imperative need to fix the system by which digital music streaming revenue is allocated.”

Twitter: @MurrayFoster1 / @TOSongwriting
Instagram: @TOSongwriting
Facebook: /murray.foster1
Original photo courtesy of Lou Middleton

THE MAYOR’S ARTS LUNCH 2020 | 27
NAGATA SHACHU

FINALEST

Nagata Shachu is a Japanese taiko drumming and music group that has performed throughout Canada and abroad. The ensemble’s aim is to create original and innovative music that seeks to create a new voice for the taiko. Their performances aspire to build meaningful human connection and inclusiveness with their audiences.

“We are fortunate to be living in a city such as Toronto where diversity and culture is celebrated and honoured. I cannot imagine a group like Nagata Shachu thriving anywhere else than in this city we call home.”

Twitter: @NagataShachu
Instagram: @nagatashachu
Facebook: /nagatashachu
YouTube: nagatashachu
Soundcloud: /nagatashachu
Website: nagatashachu.com / virtualtaiko.com

Original photo courtesy of David Ohashi

PHEMPHAT ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

FINALEST

PhemPhat Entertainment Group produces the Honey Jam programme for young female artists of all cultures and musical genres that provides promotional, mentoring, networking, educational and performance opportunities. It is a welcoming, supportive sisterhood and a safe space for young women to be vulnerable, to learn, to build self esteem and long-lasting relationships. The initiative was started in 1995 by Ebonnie Rowe.

“We, Honey Jam is a welcoming, supportive sisterhood and a safe space for young women to be vulnerable, to learn, to build self esteem and long-lasting relationships.”

Twitter: @thehoneyjam
Instagram: @thehoneyjam
Facebook: /HoneyJamCanada
Original photo courtesy of Storm
The Arts for Youth Award was established in 2007 by Martha Burns, Jim Fleck and Sandra and Jim Pitblado. 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 recipient of the Award will receive a $20,000 cash prize, with each finalist receiving $2,000. The finalist awards are supported by a generous donation from Diana Bennett & Spencer Lanthier.

**ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD**

The Arts for Youth Award was established in 2007 by Martha Burns, Jim Fleck and Sandra and Jim Pitblado. 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 recipient of the Award will receive a $20,000 cash prize, with each finalist receiving $2,000. The finalist awards are supported by a generous donation from Diana Bennett & Spencer Lanthier.

**JAYU**

JAYU is a charity committed to sharing human rights stories through the arts. Their year-round programming includes the Human Rights Film Festival, Last Tuesdays Virtual Screening Series, The Hum podcast, and IAM, an arts & social-justice training program for underserved youth in Toronto which leads to exhibition opportunities, employment, peer-to-peer leadership and more.

“At JAYU, we strongly believe art provides a universal language of understanding, a common starting point from which we can overcome perceived differences.”

**Twitter:** @jayucanada
**Instagram:** @jayucanada
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**PAST RECIPIENTS**

- 2019 Blank Canvas Gallery
- 2018 Rise Eduainment
- 2017 The Artists Mentoring Youth Project
- 2016 Young People’s Theatre
- 2015 The Remix Project
- 2014 CUE
- 2013 Art Starts
- 2012 Supporting Our Youth (S.O.Y.)
- 2011 Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre
- 2010 Manifesto Community Projects
- 2009 Mammalian Diving Reflex
- 2008 SKETCH
- 2007 Arts for Children and Youth

**FINIALIST**

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Original photo courtesy of Jadon Lem

30
THE TRUTH & DARE PROJECT

FINALIST
The Truth & Dare Project provides free visual art workshops, self-care retreats, pop-ups, and an annual exhibit for young Muslim women in the GTA. They offer safe spaces for participants to: collaborate with others who have faced similar adversities, learn individually and collectively, and explore the visual arts as a creative outlet.

“We have seen participants enter [our] program and not only gain professional work experience, but also build their confidence, a sense of belonging that allows them to walk purposefully along their path to pursue their artistic aspirations.”

Instagram: @tdnproject
Facebook: /tnproject
Original photo courtesy of Noor Al-Mosawi

NIA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

FINALIST
Nia Centre for the Arts is a charitable organization that supports, showcases and promotes an appreciation of arts from across the Afro-Diaspora. They strive to build the creative capacities and support the development of healthy identity in Black youth by connecting them to mentorship, employment opportunities and artistic experiences.

“We have seen participants enter [our] program and not only gain professional work experience, but also build their confidence, a sense of belonging that allows them to walk purposefully along their path to pursue their artistic aspirations.”

Twitter: @NiaCentre
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Website: niacentre.org
Original photo courtesy of Sanique Walters
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Learn more: toronto.ca/artworxTO
You’re dedicated to the arts and understand the value of vibrant communities. Congratulations to the 2020 Toronto Arts Foundation finalists; thank you for making this city a dynamic place to work and live!

As we celebrate our cultural communities, Humber deepens our longstanding dedication to the arts through our new Cultural Hub, a transformative new canvas for creators, located in Toronto’s west end.

▶ There is a story to be told here: humber.ca/culturalhub

Clockwise from top left: Kim’s Convenience, Lido Pimienta—Miss Columbia, Frying Plantain by Zalika Reid-Benta, Broadview, Code 8, and Super Krush KO

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As a Cornerstone Supporter of the revitalization of Massey Hall, in conjunction with our Massey Tower development, we have a deep-rooted appreciation for the Arts and for this city. MOD Developments is an organization that holds a firm commitment to heritage preservation and thoughtful city-building, and we are proud to support The Toronto Arts Foundation, and celebrate artistic excellence across our city.

MOD DEVELOPMENTS IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 2020 TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION MAYOR’S LUNCH

Branded Cities is proud to sponsor the Mayor’s Art Lunch, celebrating artistic excellence and recognizing the contributions of artists and arts supporters in the city.

Learn more about us at BrandedCities.ca.
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The Mayor’s Evening for the Arts is an annual event championed by Mayor John Tory. The proceeds from the event directly support Arts in the Parks and our other Creative City Initiatives including Neighbourhood Arts Networks and Creative Champions Network.

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals who supported the work of the Foundation through their contributions to the 2019 Mayor’s Evening for the Arts.

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TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION
COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORT INITIATIVES

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– Nightwood Theatre

With thanks to the incredible generosity from our donors, Toronto Arts Foundation is working with civic minded partners, including Toronto Arts Council, to help with mitigation, resilience and recovery during the COVID-19 crisis in Toronto. Through one-on-one mentorship, workshops for board members, financial support for artists and arts organizations, and research, our COVID-19 response initiatives are helping our beloved arts sector cope and grow in this precarious time.

Mentorship: Our Mentorship Program helps individual artists who are looking for support to re-design and reimagine their artistic work for public engagement both during and after the pandemic. Since launching in late April 2020, the program has grown substantially to include a roster of eleven mentors, many of whom volunteer their time. The Foundation is currently seeking additional support to expand this program to help more artists and arts workers by increasing the number of mentors and to compensate them for their time.

Workshops for board members: Our Creative Champions Network program which provides general information on board governance to Toronto’s volunteer arts board members, quickly pivoted to share critical, current information in a new online format to help support valued organizations during the pandemic. Workshops Surviving Extraordinary Times: The Board’s Role in Organizational Resilience and 10 Principles for Navigating Through Critical Times remain on our website to be accessed by Toronto’s board members at any time and at no cost.

Support for artists: Toronto Arts Foundation and Toronto Arts Council joined forces, with assistance from the City of Toronto, to create the TOArtist COVID-19 Response Fund which provided funding to individual artists who lost work due to the COVID-19 shutdown. Thanks to an amazing outpouring of support from the community who saw the urgent need to support Toronto’s artists, we were able to provide $836,347 to 982 Toronto artists.

Support for organizations: With thanks to a one-million-dollar contribution from the Hal Jackman Foundation, eighty small and mid-sized charitable arts organizations representing a range of artistic disciplines and operating across the city, received unrestricted financial support. We were pleased to help distribute much needed funds to organizations that continue to be affected by depleted earned revenue due to COVID-19 closures.

Research: Collecting data and sharing information during this time is crucial. Through our work with Ryerson University and other partners, we’re tracking the impact of the pandemic on the arts to help artists and arts organizations plan for recovery. This includes designing and testing new operational practices for back of house operations in theatres, creating new guidelines for occupational and public health standards, and providing resources for artists on financial relief, mental health, virtual arts entertainment, data collection and accessibility.

Toronto Arts Foundation welcomes contributions to support our suite of COVID-19 response initiatives. Please consider making a donation today.

Show your support for Toronto’s arts community by using the hashtag #TOArtsTogether

Visit our website to discover how you can support these important initiatives

Toronto Arts Foundation

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On behalf of all the donors to the TOArtist COVID-19 Response Fund, thank you to Toronto’s artists for sharing your incredible talents. As we emerge from the crisis, we will all be depending on our artists to prop us forward.
Thank you to our generous group of annual donors. Your belief in our initiatives and the transformative social and economic benefits of the arts is deeply appreciated. Toronto Arts Foundation is incredibly grateful for your generosity and support.

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