



BACKGROUNDER: 2020 RECIPIENTS OF THE TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION AWARDS

ABOUT – TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION AWARDS

Toronto Arts Foundation Awards are presented to artists, cultural leaders and businesses in recognition of artistic excellence, cultural leadership and contribution to the arts. Financial support of the annual Toronto Arts Foundation 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.

ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT

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.

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 winner of the award receives a \$20,000 cash prize, with each finalist receiving \$2,000. The finalist awards are supported by a generous donation from Diana Bennett and Spencer Lanthier.

2020 finalists: Nia Centre for the Arts, The Truth & Dare Project

CELEBRATION OF CULTURAL LIFE AWARDS RECIPIENT

Sandra Laronde

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.

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. The recipient will receive a week-long retreat, compliments of Valleyview Artist Retreat.

2020 finalists: Karen & Allen Kaeja and Ryan Rice

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD RECIPIENT

Jamii

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.

The Community Arts Award is a \$10,000 cash prize celebrating an individual artist or organization that has made a significant contribution 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.

2020 finalists: MUSE ARTS and Unit 2

EMERGING ARTIST AWARD RECIPIENT

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.

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.

2020 finalists: Britta B. and Leila Fatemi

EMERGING JAZZ ARTIST AWARD RECIPIENT

Jesse Ryan

Trinidadian-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.

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.

2020 finalists: Lauren Falls and Matt Lagan

ROY THOMSON HALL AWARD OF RECOGNITION RECIPIENT

PhemPhat Entertainment Group

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.

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.

2020 finalists: Murray Foster and Nagata Shachu

TORONTO ARTS AND BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENT

Concord Adex

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 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.

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.

The 2020 peer assessors for the **Arts For Youth Award, Celebration of Cultural Life Awards, Emerging Artist Award** and **Roy Thomson Hall Award of Recognition** were: **Aida Aydinyan**, General Manager at the Royal Conservatory of Music, **Annalie Bonda**, Executive Director of The Remix Project, **Cyn Rozeboom**, Executive Director of Tangled Art + Disability, **Julian Sleath**, arts administrator, **Raoul Olou**, multidisciplinary artist, and **Régine Cadet**, General Manager of Theatre Passe Muraille.

The 2020 peer assessors for the **Emerging Jazz Artist Award** were: **Elizabeth Rodriguez**, violinist and co-leader of OKAN, **Jeremy Ledbetter**, pianist, composer and producer, **Joy Lapps-Lewis**, musician, composer, academic and arts educator, and **Josh Grossman**, trumpeter, founding Artistic Director and Conductor for the Toronto Jazz Orchestra (TJO) and Artistic Director for Toronto Downtown Jazz.

The 2020 peer assessors for the **Community Arts Award** were: **Collette Murray**, dance educator, mentor, contributing writer, performer and cultural arts programmer, **Anique Jordan**, artist, award-winning writer, educator, curator and entrepreneur, **Julian Carvajal**, Colombian-Canadian Queer Latinx Media Artist, Arts Manager, Producer and Cultural Promoter, **Kristina McMullin**, designer and communicator, and **Mahad Shoaib aka "arXade,"** fundraiser and producer.

The 2020 peer assessors for the **Toronto Arts and Business Award** were: **Gillian Smith**, Toronto Arts Foundation Board Member; Principal Consultant & Advisor, Gillian Smith Consulting, **Nichole Anderson Bergeron**, President & CEO, Business for the Arts, **Leen Al Zaibak**, Chair, Emerging Leaders, Toronto Arts Foundation, Cofounder and Director, Jusoor Canada, **Shawn Micallef**, columnist with The Toronto Star, Co-founder of Spacing magazine, **Rebecca Carbin**, Principal, Art + Public UnLtd.

Toronto Arts Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its sponsors who have continued their support of the arts in Toronto during this difficult time.

Table Host Sponsors: Canada Life, Carpenters & Allied Workers Local 27, Centennial College, City of Toronto, Susan Crocker & John Hunkin, The Daniels Corporation, DiamondCorp, Diamond Schmitt, John & Kay McKellar, Ontario Creates, Richard Paquet, Humber College Institute Of Technology & Advanced Learning, LiUNA! Local 183, Power Corporation of Canada.

Media Partners: BentallGreenOak, Branded Cities, Cadillac Fairview, Metroland Media, Toronto Life, Toronto Star

Lunch Host Partner: CBC Toronto

Official Wine Sponsor: Inniskillin