May 4, 2020
Arcadian Court, Simpson Tower

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST
TABLE HOST: $5,000

“I am delighted to support this event that showcases talented artists who are passionate about their craft and the volunteers who make up the boards of arts organizations that help the arts thrive in our great city. This event honours and recognizes individuals who, through art, have made a difference in our communities and strive to build a strong and united city.” - Mayor John Tory

Mayor John Tory and a carefully curated room of 300+ corporate executives, politicians, artists, cultural leaders, leading philanthropists and special guests will come together to celebrate and support the arts at the 14th annual Mayor’s Arts Lunch.

Five Toronto Arts Foundation Awards, presented during high profile, joyful event, recognize artistic excellence and the contributions of artists and arts supporters, across disciplines, to creative city-building in Toronto.

This event and the awards are wholly supported by donations from generous arts champions and Table Hosts.

Be an arts champion.
Join us in honouring and celebrating
Toronto’s artistic leaders and emerging artists.

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP
• Half Page advertisement placement in the Mayor’s Arts Lunch program book
• Logo recognition in the Lunch program book and on the Toronto Arts Foundation website.
• Logo recognition in the ‘thank you to our sponsors’ ad in The Toronto Star, published following the event.
• Four (4) invitations at the Mayors’ Arts Lunch on May 4, 2020. We will fill the remaining seats with a fascinating array of Toronto’s cultural and civic leaders.
• Four (4) invitations to the pre-Lunch Reception.
• Two (2) invitations to the Finalists’ Reception, held the week prior to the lunch.

For more information contact:
Leslie Francombe, Philanthropy & Sponsorship Manager
leslie@torontoarts.org
416.392.6802 x214
“It is an exciting time for the arts in Toronto and it is an exciting time for our city overall. I believe this success is a result of investments we have made in the arts, in culture, in education, in our city and in its growth.” Mayor John Tory at the 2019 Lunch

“I’m not one for these big award shows, but I have so much love for the Toronto Arts Foundation, mainly because they recognize the important work that grassroots youth organizations are doing in our city.” Errol Nazareth, Host, Big City, Small World
2020 AWARDS

Toronto Arts Foundation Awards celebrate artistic excellence and recognize the contributions of artists and arts supporters to creative city-building in Toronto.

The Awards are presented in recognition of a body of creative accomplishment, rather than for specific works or achievements. Financial support of the annual Toronto Arts Foundation Awards is provided through a combination of legacies and annual donations from private and corporate donors.

All award recipients receive an original work of art in the form of a plate, commissioned each year from some of Toronto’s most important visual artists. Pictured above is the 2015 plate by Shary Boyle, an award-winning artist whose work has been exhibition nationally and internationally. Shary's public art commission Cracked Wheat can be seen on the front grounds of the Gardiner Museum in Toronto, where her work will be featured in a major solo exhibition opening January 2021.

**Arts for Youth Award** – A $20,000 cash prize, with finalists receiving $2,000, celebrating an individual, collective or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to engaging Toronto’s youth through the arts. Established in 2007, the award is supported by Martha Burns, Jim Fleck, and Sandra and Jim Pitblado. The finalist prizes are supported by Diana Bennett and Spencer Lanthier.

**Emerging Artist Award** – A $10,000 cash prize, with finalists receiving $2,000, celebrating the accomplishments and future potential of an emerging Toronto artist working in any discipline. Established in 2006, the award is sponsored by Susan Crocker and John Hunkin and is intended to support the development or completion of new work. The finalist awards were established in 2014 and are supported by the Bulmash-Siegel Fund.

**Celebration of Cultural Life Award** – A $10,000 cash prize, with finalists receiving $2,000, celebrating 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 and the finalist awards are generously supported by Arthur Dalfen.

**Roy Thomson Hall Award of Recognition** – A $10,000 cash prize, this award celebrates an individual, ensemble or organization for their creative, performing, administrative, volunteer or philanthropic contributions to Toronto’s musical life. Presented every two years, this award was established in 1984 by the Volunteer Committee of Roy Thomson Hall to recognize and thank the community that supported the conception, building and establishment of the new concert hall.

**The Toronto Arts and Business Award** – An honorary award celebrating a local business that has championed the arts through on-going innovative, transformative, and entrepreneurial partnerships or philanthropic investments. The awarded business shares the belief that the arts create a positive social impact on their employees, their customers and their community. Established in 2006, this award is presented in partnership with Toronto Arts Foundation, Business for the Arts and The Toronto Star.
2019 Award Recipients

ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD:
Blank Canvas – an art collective building community and creating platforms for marginalized artists to explore their intersectional identities through events, panels, workshops and content creation

EMERGING ARTIST AWARD:
Joshua Vettivelu – artist, programmer and educator working within sculpture, video, installation and performance

MARGO BINDHARDT AND RITA DAVIES CULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD:
Nina Lee Aquino – director and dramaturge; Artistic Director of Factory Theatre

MURIEL SHERRIN AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC:
Eve Egoyan – internationally acclaimed concert pianist

TORONTO ARTS AND BUSINESS:
Gladstone Hotel – Built in 1889, the Gladstone Hotel is Toronto’s oldest continually operating hotel, proudly upholding the highest standards in environmental sustainability, social responsibility and community building through the arts.

Recipients were presented with a commissioned commemorative plate designed by rising local artist Rajni Perera, whose work explores issues of ethnography, gender, sexuality, deities, monsters, and dream worlds.

Attendees of note included:

Mayor John Tory

City Councillors:
Ana Bailao
Brad Bradford
Shelley Carroll
Gary Crawford
John Filion
Cynthia Lai
Josh Matlow
Frances Nunziata
Michael Thompson
Kristyn Wong-Tam

MPPs:
Aris Babikian
Chris Glover
Mitzie Hunter
Vincent Ke
Peter Tabuns

Governor General Award Winners:
Ali Kazimi and Andrew James Patterson

Rose Fortune Award Winner:
Sandra Whiting

Representatives from arts organizations celebrating anniversaries:
Little Pear Garden Dance Company – 25th
Toronto’s Performing Arts Awards – 40th
International Festival of Authors – 40th
Dancemakers – 45th
La Petite Musciale – 50th

Lunch Hosts:
Amanda Parris & Jesse Wente
2019 Mayor’s Arts Lunch Sponsors

**Table Hosts**
Canada Life
Canadian Museum of History
Carpenters & Allied Workers Local 27
Centennial College
City of Toronto
Susan Crocker, C.M. & John Hunkin
The Daniels Corporation
Humber College (2)
KPMG
John & Kay McKellar
Liuna Local 183
Ontario Creates
Power Corporation of Canada
RBC
Richard Paquet

**Host Sponsor**
CBC

**Wine Sponsor**
Inniskillin

**Finalist Reception Sponsors** Arterra
Wines Canada
The Spoke Club
Steam Whistle Brewery

**Special Thanks To:**
Robert & Julia Foster
Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund
Scott Griffin
Toronto Entertainment District
2019 Sponsorship Benefit Fulfillment

▶ Sponsors who supplied their Twitter handles were thanked on-line during the awards. TAF has over 2,100 followers.

▶ Table Host Sponsors were listed on the Toronto Arts Foundation website.

▶ Table Host Sponsor logos were placed in the Lunch Program – 310 distributed at event.

▶ Table Host Sponsors received the opportunity to submit a half page advertisement in the Lunch Program.

▶ Table Hosts enjoyed the opportunity to have four representatives and/or guests at the Lunch.

▶ Table Hosts enjoyed an invitation for two to the Finalist Reception, held at The Spoke Club on May 1st.

In the News:


https://nowtoronto.com/culture/art-and-design/blank-canvas-toronto-arts-foundation/
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE
A total of $60,000 in awards were distributed at the 2019 Mayor’s Arts Lunch. Thank you to all partners and sponsors who made this possible.

AWARD SPONSORS
Toronto Arts and Business Award: Toronto Star, Business / Arts  
The Margo Bindhardt and Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award: John and Raphaela Dunlap, Neera Chopra  
Arts for Youth Award: Martha Sums, Jim Picc, Sandra and Jim Pitliado, Diana Bennett and Spencer Lanthier  
Emerging Artist Award: Susan Crocker and John Hunkin, Bulmash-Siegel Fund  
The Muriel Sherrin Award for International Achievement in Music: Muriel Sherrin Award Fund, Valleyview Artist Retreat

EVENT SPONSORS
Susan Crocker C.M. & John Hunkin | John & Kay McKellar | Richard Paquet

Official Flower Supplier  
Lunch Wine Sponsor  
Finalist Reception Venue Sponsor  
Host Sponsor  

Specials thanks to Robert & Julia Foster, Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Scott Giffin, Toronto Entertainment District Association

MEDIA SPONSORS
Help support artistic excellence in Toronto. For more information visit:

TorontoStar.com/sponsor

Photo: Claire Hopkinson, Director & CEO, Toronto Arts Foundation & Toronto Arts Council with the 2019 Toronto Arts Foundation Awards recipients, Event Hosts Jesse Wente and Amanda Parris, and Mayor John Tory.
Patron of the arts

Head of art collective says $20,000 award will allow group to expand

GTA

Greater Toronto area

Deaths, GT4

Art collective awarded for youth work

Head of Blank Canvas says $20,000 prize will allow group to expand

Rhianna Jackson-Yelizko

Staff Reporter

The Toronto Arts Foundation renewed its pledge to support local artists and arts organizations this year at the 2019 Mayor’s Arts Lunch awards ceremony Wednesday.

The foundation, a charity distributed $600,000 in awards at the annual Mayor’s Arts Lunch, which five Toronto artists and organizations were recognized for their contributions to the city’s creative culture.

Blank Canvas, a Toronto-based art collective founded in 2016 that produces panels, workshops and other events dedicated to showcasing the artwork of emerging, young, marginalized artists, took home the day’s biggest award, the Arts for Youth Award, with a cash prize of $20,000.

For John Samuels, CEO of Blank Canvas, this year is just the beginning.

“This award was definitely a ceiling to reach,” said Samuels. “The goal is to keep going, and the work really starts now.”

Samuels said the prize will help Blank Canvas expand its current initiatives, including its collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario to provide free creative workshops to youth, monthly poetry workshops, open mic nights and an art show this summer in collaboration with Canadian artist Jordan Sook.

“Awards like these are very important in being a catalyst for shifting Toronto culture,” Samuels said. “I hope that our work will continue to create more access for marginalized artists to share our narratives and our truths.”

Though the awards cover many different categories and are not strictly limited to artistic achievement, a common quality among winners is strong community leadership, said Claire Hopkinson, the foundation’s CEO.

Founded in 1996, the Toronto Arts Foundation is dedicated to fostering community, encouraging engagement and promoting inclusivity throughout the city by supporting arts. “We know that the arts are a fundamental building block to the soul and livability of the city,” Hopkinson said.

“Artists help make those connections, shine a spotlight on certain issues ... bring people out who wouldn’t normally be together.”

While the Toronto Arts Council, the funding body that governs the foundation, did not face any budget cuts this year, Hopkinson said expressing the importance of the arts is always front of mind.

Eighty-nine per cent of Torontonians think the arts make the city a better place to live, and 71 per cent say it because the arts engage people with new ideas,” she said, citing a 2018 Arts Ontario survey, jointly conducted by the Toronto Arts Foundation and market research firm Leger.

The 2019 awards honoured winners across five categories:

- Arts for Youth Award – Blank Canvas
- Emerging Artist Award – Joshua Vettivelu
- Manga, Bird & Hua Cultural Leadership Award – Nira Lee Akinno
- Muriel Shearin Award for International Achievement in Music – Eve Egoyan
- Toronto Arts and Business Award – Gladstone Hotel
Thank you to the @TOArtsFdn for hosting this fantastic Mayor’s Arts Lunch. This event is an opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate artistic excellence, the contributions of artists and the people who support the arts in our city. #TOArtsAwards
Blank Canvas wins biggest prize at the Toronto Arts Foundation Awards

The art collective's CEO John Samuels (aka Just John) says the $20,000 prize will help fund more ways to engage youth in arts.
The art collective **Blank Canvas** took home the largest cash prize from the Toronto Arts Foundation Awards. Prizes were handed out at the Mayor’s Annual Arts Lunch on Wednesday, May 8, presenting the $20,000 Arts for Youth Award to Blank Canvas for driving culture forward and creating a platform for marginalized artists.

Since its 2016 launch, **Blank Canvas** showcases work like **When Black Boys Cry** by Toronto-based painter James Michael Yeboah, and hosts a monthly Dead Poets event where artwork decorates the walls while musicians and poets jump out on the mic.

“Our community is so, so resilient,” said CEO **John Samuels** in an acceptance speech that referenced some of the obstacles the collective had overcome. “They stood by us when we opened our first brick and mortar space. And they were right at the door when our locks were changed multiple times. They cheered triumphantly when we overcame police brutality.”

Lately, Samuels has been seeing his music career lying off. Going by the moniker Just John, the rapper just released his latest EP with Dom Dias, **Don III**. Not that the music will be pulling him away from Blank Canvas. Samuels stated that the Toronto Arts Foundation recognition and awards money will help find more ways to engage youth in arts and take Blank Canvas to the next level.

“Rooms like these are the catalysts that help change the cultural landscape in our city.”

The event also saw multi-disciplinary artist **Joshua Vettivelu** take home the Emerging Artist Award. Although Vettivelu is a Toronto-based artist, his latest work, **Surface Tension**, is actually on display in St. John’s. The sand sculpture resembling a fishing boat commemorates the vessel that carried Tamil refugees to the shores of Newfoundland in 1986.

**Eve Egoyan** collected the Muriel Sherrin Award For International Achievement In Music and Factory Theatre artistic director **Nina Lee Aquino** was recognized with the Margo Bindhardt and Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award.
Mayor John Tory was on hand to celebrate the awards recipients while touting his own platform for arts investments.

“I have called for a year of public art to be declared in 2021,” said Tory. He announced that in 2021, Nuit Blanche will follow-up with the in-roads made in Scarborough last year by extending to North York and Etobicoke. And he will also initiate a 10-year public art strategy, led by OCAD University president Sara Diamond.

Without naming names, Tory took a swipe at Premier Doug Ford in the wake of a series of provincial budget cuts targeting the city. He referenced “other governments” that are slashing investments in Toronto, while the Mayor’s office is pushing for more contributions to the arts.

As Tory told NOW in an interview at SXSW Festival in Austin in March, the arts scene is good business, particularly if we want to see more tech companies invest in Toronto. What Tory learned from SXSW, and Austin’s subsequent tech boom, is that these companies want to set up shop in locations where they can hire creative talent.

“[Tech companies] want to be in a place committed to creativity, artistry and music.”

@JustSayRad