

TORONTO ARTS _

COVER TAPESTRY OPERA.
PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ (2025).



2025

SPECIAL

ISSUE

—

ANNUAL

ALL

IN

FOR

THE

REPORT

ARTS

**TORONTO
ARTS_**

**ALL
IN
FOR
THE
ARTS**

“We know that the arts improve individual health, social wellbeing, community connectedness, and local and national economies: it’s why we’re all in for the arts.”

KELLY LANGGARD

**Director & CEO
Toronto Arts Council and Foundation**

In a year defined by growth and renewed investment in the arts, Toronto Arts Council and Foundation deepened our impact to benefit artists, arts organizations, and communities across the city. Increased funding from the City of Toronto enabled us to expand access to the arts in neighbourhoods outside the downtown core, and better resource artists to tell the shared stories of our diverse city.

2025 also saw the completion of our new strategic plan, in which we lay out a vision and a map for the next five years that ensures the arts are integral to civic life in Toronto. We know that the arts improve individual health, social wellbeing, community connectedness, and local and national economies: it’s why we’re all in for the arts.

Our strategic plan aligns with the City of Toronto’s 10-year culture plan, Culture Connects, and we are proud to partner with them on shared goals. This includes our TOgether Through Art initiative, which highlights the power of the arts to foster connection, belonging, and empathy. I would like to thank Mayor Olivia Chow, City Council and our City colleagues for their steadfast support, collaboration, and investment in our work.

My deepest thanks to our staff, board members, volunteers, partners, sponsors, donors, and the artists and cultural leaders whose work shapes this creative city every day. It is said often, but never enough: our work is not possible without you.



(IN) BLOOM GALA.
PHOTO BY KAT RIZZA (2025).

CELIA SMITH

**Chair, Board of Directors
Toronto Arts Council**

As Chair of the Board and as someone working closely within the sector, I see every day how critical it is for a healthy arts ecosystem to have responsive, artist-led funding models. Our close relationships with artists and arts organizations across Toronto, as well as our peer assessment process, ensure that our programs remain grounded in real needs and lived experience.

This year, we were proud to support a wide range of impactful projects, including bold new works on stage and in galleries, community-driven festivals, and public art that brought creativity into neighbourhoods across the city. These initiatives reflect the depth and diversity of Toronto's talent and demonstrate the essential role artists play in shaping vibrant, connected communities.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their leadership and dedication, and the City of Toronto and Toronto City Council for their steadfast support for the arts. Because of you, our community of arts champions accomplished so much in 2025. This report is a celebration of exactly that.



TORONTO ARTS AWARDS.
PHOTO BY KAT RIZZA (2025).

“We were proud to support a wide range of impactful projects, including bold new works on stage and in galleries, community-driven festivals, and public art that brought creativity into neighbourhoods across the city.”

DR. SARA DIAMOND

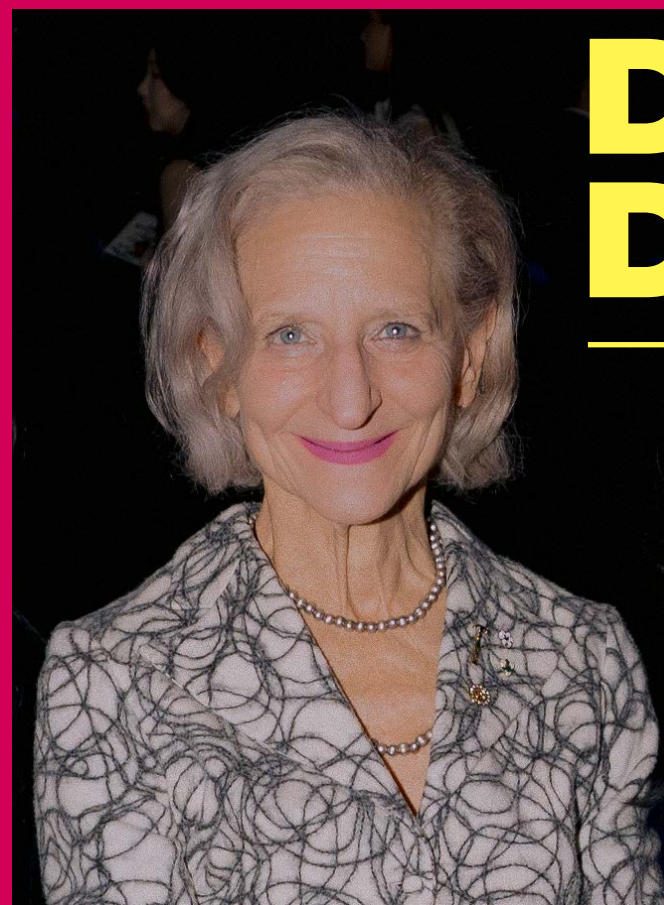
**Chair, Board of Directors
Toronto Arts Foundation**

The arts play a vital role in city-building by strengthening connection, fostering belonging, and helping shape a more inclusive Toronto. Over the past year, we deepened our commitment to supporting newcomers, ensuring that artists and communities new to Toronto have greater access to opportunities, resources, and networks. By investing in these pathways, we are not only supporting individual artists, but also building a city that, through the arts, feels more like home.

Through initiatives like TOgether Through Art and Arts In the Parks, we have seen how creativity can bring people together across differences, creating shared experiences that reflect the diversity of our city. You can read more about those initiatives in this report.

We are grateful for our dedicated funding partners, sponsors, and donors who ensure that the Foundation's programs continue to grow and enrich more communities and residents every year. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow board members for their leadership and commitment, as well as to Mayor Chow, City Council, and our generous donors and sponsors for being all in for the arts.

(IN) BLOOM GALA.
PHOTO BY KAT RIZZA (2025).



“We deepened our commitment to supporting newcomers, ensuring that artists and communities new to Toronto have greater access to opportunities, resources, and networks.”

KOREAN DANCE STUDIES SOCIETY OF CANADA.
PHOTO BY GABRIEL CROPLEY (2022).



08

STELLA STANDINGBEAR, FABCOLLAB.
PHOTO BY AMY SARGENT (2025).



28

JAMIL.
PHOTO BY JAE YANG (2024).

106



INTRO

- 10 Toronto Arts Council: Supporting Artists to Thrive
- 20 Toronto Arts Foundation: Community First

ALL IN FOR THE ARTS

- 30 BUILD FOR THE FUTURE**
- 32 Granting highlights
- 36 Welcoming new artists to Toronto
- 40 Supporting the next generation of artists
- 44 Art across the city
- 48 Donor Spotlight: Martha Burns
- 52 TRANSFORM SUPPORTS**
- 54 Fund your next idea
- 56 Supporting Indigenous leaders and artists
- 60 CONNECT COMMUNITIES**
- 62 Donor spotlight: MOD Development
- 66 Arts in the Parks
- 72 Our work in action: the Little Jamaica cultural corridor
- 76 LEAD GLOBALLY**
- 78 Awarding local excellence
- 92 MAKE THE CASE**
- 94 Invest in the arts, invest in Toronto
- 98 Mapping growth and opportunity
- 102 Advocating for public investment in the arts

DONOR RECOGNITION + REPORTING

- 108 Mayor's Evening for the Arts sponsors
- 110 Friends of the Foundation
- 112 Year-round sponsors
- 114 2025 committees
- 116 Grant review panels
- 118 Grant allocation
- 120 Toronto Arts Council auditors report
- 124 Toronto Arts Foundation auditors report



INTERRO



SUPPORTING ARTISTS TO THRIVE

ROSA'S FLOWER. PHOTO BY
JESSE MARCELO SARKIS (2022).

Established in 1974, Toronto Arts Council works to build a vibrant, inclusive and dynamic arts community that benefits all residents. Each year, we grant more than \$26 million in public investment from the City of Toronto to a wide range of creative activity, from new artistic work to festivals, performances, exhibitions, readings, and workshops experienced by more than four million people annually and enriching life throughout Toronto.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

As Toronto's public funding body for the arts, we support artists and arts organizations to flourish through accessible grants and services, we advise on arts sector needs and opportunities, and we use our convening power to further the development of the arts.

COTE DANCE (2024)
PHOTO BY SASHA ONYSHCHENKO

\$26.4M

VALUE OF
GRANTS AWARDED

3,051

GRANT APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED, REPRESENTING \$57.79M
IN FUNDING REQUESTS

954

GRANTS
DISTRIBUTED

31%

OVERALL APPLICATION
SUCCESS RATE

438

**INDIVIDUAL
ARTISTS
FUNDED**



OPÉRA QUEENS.
PHOTO BY ELANA
EMER (2022).

SHADOWLAND THEATRE.
PHOTO BY HANNAH
MITTELSTAEDT(2023).

516

**ORGANIZATIONS
AND COLLECTIVES
FUNDED**



315

**FIRST TIME
GRANT
RECIPIENTS**

SIDE THREE MEDIA INC.
PHOTO BY PAUL TILL (2025).

88

**DAYS OF GRANT
REVIEW PANELS**



NEILSON PARK
CREATIVE CENTRE.
PHOTO BY MIA
BUONO (2024).

213

**PEER ASSESSORS
REVIEWING
APPLICATIONS**





\$2,652,346

**INCREASE TO TORONTO
ARTS COUNCIL'S BASE BUDGET**

197

organizations
received
increases to their
operating grants

~19K

artists
paid fees or
salaries by arts
organizations
receiving
operating funds.

12,164

people volunteered

550,154

hours with arts
organizations receiving
operating funds.

JAMII.
PHOTO BY
JAE YANG (2025).



4M+

**(4,039,869)
AUDIENCE MEMBERS
ENGAGED WITH
COUNCIL-FUNDED
PROGRAMMING**



COMMUNITY FIRST

SHADOWLAND THEATRE.
PHOTO BY HANNAH
MITTELSTAEDT (2023).

Toronto Arts Foundation is a city-building force for the arts in Toronto. Since 1995, the Foundation has worked in tandem with Toronto Arts Council, complementing public investment with private support to expand the capacity, reach, and impact of the arts. Through creative and professional development, research, community engagement, and strategic initiatives, we intervene where support is most needed.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

As Toronto's city-wide charity for the arts, we mobilize private partners and resources to champion and strengthen the arts sector, nurture creative potential, celebrate artistic achievement, and connect communities to the transformative benefits of the arts.

ARTS IN THE PARKS,
WAVELENGTH.
PHOTO BY
KAT RIZZA (2025).



1440K

**ARTS IN THE PARKS ATTENDEES
A 40% INCREASE FROM 2024**

ARTS IN THE PARKS.
PHOTO BY
KAT RIZZA (2025).

\$1,056,199

**FUNDS RAISED THROUGH THE
MAYOR'S EVENING FOR THE ARTS***

\$108,000

**PRIZES AWARDED THROUGH
2025 TORONTO ARTS AWARDS**

(IN) BLOOM GALA.
PHOTO BY
KAT RIZZA (2025).



***\$109,779 OF
REVENUES RAISED
VIA MEA WERE
ATTRIBUTED
TO OTHER
REVENUE LINES**



ARTWORKSTO
GRADUATION.
PHOTO BY SELINA
MCCALLUM (2025).

55

**ARTWORKSTO CREATIVE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
PARTICIPANTS**

331

**TOGETHER THROUGH ART
EVENTS PROMOTED**

STELLA STANDINGBEAR, FABCOLLAB.
PHOTO BY AMY SARGENT (2025).

ALL IN FOR THE ARTS



BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

Pursue innovative pathways to a robust and inclusive arts sector by supporting stability now while helping artists and arts organizations adapt to current and emerging realities and seize new opportunities.

INCREASE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT

in the vitality of the sector, determining what is needed for the arts to truly flourish and aligning and diversifying our resources to achieve this future.

CONTRIBUTE TO INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL MODELS AND POLICIES that will improve artists' income potential and support arts organizations to implement effective operating solutions.

INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARTISTS AND CULTURAL LEADERS

and increase funding and other supports for artists, arts organizations, and communities that are outside the downtown core.

COLLABORATE WITH THE CITY OF TORONTO AND OTHER PARTNERS

to sustain and support affordable community-led spaces for cultural use.

MEET SOME OF THE TALENTED ARTISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORTED.

GRANTING HIGHLIGHTS

A BLACK ART FAIR. NIA CENTRE'S WEBSITE.



NIA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS advances Black artistic expression and creates opportunities for Black artists, youth, and communities to thrive. As Canada's first professional Black arts centre, it provides a dedicated space for artistic creation, mentorship, professional development, cultural programming, and community gathering. Through exhibitions, performances, youth programs, and artist supports, Nia Centre strengthens cultural identity, builds creative skills, and connects community members to meaningful artistic and cultural experiences year-round.

By investing in emerging and established artists and creating safe, inclusive spaces, Nia Centre helps foster belonging, representation, and community well-being across Toronto.

In 2025, a 2.5% inflationary increase was granted to all Operating clients, including Nia Centre.

LUA SHAYENNE'S WEBSITE.



LUA SHAYENNE DANCE COMPANY (LSDC) strengthens communities through dance, music, storytelling, and cultural exchange rooted in West African traditions and contemporary artistic practice. Through original performances, educational programs, community workshops, and a biennial festival celebrating Black female dance artists, LSDC creates opportunities foster belonging, deepen cultural understanding, and build meaningful connections among participants, audiences, and communities across Canada and beyond. LSDC received more than twice its 2024 Dance Operating allocation in 2025, from \$20,000 in 2024 to \$45,000 in 2025.

TORONTO ARTS _ COUNCIL



ITAH SADU, MANAGING DIRECTOR, BLACKHURST CULTURAL CENTRE. PHOTO BY RON FANFAIR.



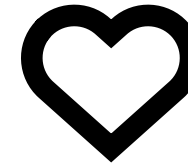
BLACKHURST CULTURAL CENTRE (BCC) provides opportunities for Canadians and visitors to celebrate and engage with the rich cultural legacy and history of Canadians of African and Caribbean ancestry. Through arts, education, heritage, and community programs, it fosters cultural pride, intergenerational connection, and lifelong learning. As a community hub, the Centre supports youth leadership, artistic development, and community engagement while creating inclusive spaces that strengthen belonging and build stronger, more connected communities.

The BCC saw a 71% increase in their Black Arts Operating Grant, from \$45,000 in 2024 to \$77,000 in 2025.

“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THE TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL GRANT DID FOR ME WAS THAT IT GAVE ME THE CONFIDENCE TO CALL MYSELF A WRITER AND AN ARTIST, TO MINGLE WITH OTHERS OF LIKE MINDS, AND CONSEQUENTLY, AND AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THESE ACTIVITIES, OTHER OPPORTUNITIES OPENED FOR ME. GETTING THE WRITERS GRANT WAS TRANSFORMATIVE.”

I am happy to share that I just received a Research and Creation grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, as well as notice of my acceptance for a two-week residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity. See what I mean? The Toronto Arts Council grant paved the way for me. This new chapter of my life is a direct result of that boost from the Toronto Arts Council. Thank you so much.”

—GRACE SANCHEZ



BEHIND THE SCENES;
ARMYN NADERI,
SELECTED PARTICIPANT
OF THE ARTWORKS
TO NEWCOMER PROGRAM,
MEDIA ARTS STREAM,
2025-2026.

WELCOMING NEW ARTISTS TO TORONTO

In 2025, Toronto Arts Foundation's Neighbourhood Arts Network launched the ArtWorksTO Newcomer Program thanks to a transformational grant from TD Bank Group, awarded through the TD Ready Challenge with additional support from Bell Canada. The program, in partnership with OCAD University and Work in Culture, supports newcomer artist entrepreneurs as they navigate the challenges of building careers and community in a new country.

Newcomers are an important part of our community; 46.6% of Toronto's population are newcomers. But few resources exist for newcomer artists, with only 2% of arts funders in Canada providing funds specifically to support newcomers.

This compounds the barriers newcomer artists and small business owners already face, including limited professional networks, unfamiliarity with Canada's arts sector, challenges rebuilding a client base, and difficulty accessing meaningful employment opportunities.

Through paid contracts, mentorship, credentialed post-secondary education, and industry connections, the ArtWorksTO Newcomer Program helps participants gain Canadian experience and, expand their networks, and strengthen their sense of belonging. By bringing their talents, voices, and perspectives, these newcomer artists are an important part of the Toronto arts ecosystem's capacity to **BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.**



“After moving to Canada, I felt unsure and a bit alone in my photography journey. This program changed that. It helped me find my people, build a network, and feel inspired again. It also gave me a real start. Through my project, I found my first clients, which meant so much to me. I’m truly grateful for this experience and hope it will inspire and support future participants just as it did for me.”

—ELENA PANFILOV,
ARTWORKSTO NEWCOMER PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



“WHEN SMALL BUSINESSES THRIVE, COMMUNITIES THRIVE. THIS IS WHY TD IS SUPPORTING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WHO HELP CULTIVATE THE ENTREPRENEURIAL LANDSCAPE. SUPPORT IS ESPECIALLY VITAL FOR UNDERSERVED ENTREPRENEURS, WHO FACE UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM. THE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS HAVE INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE, AND WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE THE IMPACT THEY WILL HELP DRIVE.”

—ELLEN GLAESSNER,
TD, HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP



SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARTISTS



“Being part of ArtWorksTO has honestly felt like stepping into a creative ecosystem where support, growth, and possibility all meet. They helped me bridge the dreamy creative visioning with the practical logistic and financial skills needed to build a sustainable career. I’m walking away not just with new skills, but with community, and I’m truly grateful for that.”

—2025 ARTWORKSTO YOUTH PARTICIPANT

PHOTO BY SELINA
MCCALLUM (2025).

ArtWorksTO Youth Program is presented in partnership with City of Toronto, OCAD University and The Remix Project.

Through paid creative opportunities, credentialed education, and industry connections, the program helps Indigenous, Black, and racialized youth creatives aged 18–29 gain real-world experience, expand their networks, and strengthen their confidence and creative skills as emerging artists.

ArtWorksTO values safe and accountable workspaces that build the confidence of IBPOC youth media artists and prepare them for industry realities while also seeking to trans-

form what is inequitable about conventional practices and structures. The program also includes mentorship to help participants navigate these new professional opportunities. Toronto Arts Foundation’s Mentorship Project is generously supported by RBC Foundation.

In 2025, ArtWorksTO Youth Program continued to **BUILD FOR THE FUTURE** by investing in the next generation of creative talent, supporting 24 young artists as they shape Toronto’s cultural future and contribute to a more inclusive creative economy.

2025-2026 COHORT

Abdullah Khan
Aditi Ganeev Sangwan
Ahmed Fawzi Attia
Alek Phan
Alireza Keymanesh
André Kamehama
Armyr Naderi
Atish Mukhopadhyay
Can Deniz Atici
Elena Panfilov
Fatema Huzaifa Ali
Gurdeep Singh
Hong Yu Chan
Jim Libiran
Maliha Ali
Mei Wu
Mohammed Mir Mahmoud
Natalie Sze Wai
Naz Salih
Parmeet Arora Bori
Rishikesh Sharma
Sara Oveissi
Segun Caezar
Sora Kheiry
Tyra Pinto



2025-2026 COHORT

Amina Hemed
Andreina Calderon
Angela Hoang
Caitlin Arizala
Christopher López
Dean Oriade
Enef
Habiba Hisham
Herman Justino
Jamlec David
Jasmine Vanstone
Jason Manzi
Justin Co
Micah Domingo
Sadiq O Lamar
Robbie J Harper
Rubiat Fusigboye
Samuel Oh
Sayani Sarkar
Sigrid Yu
Slina Frich
Stephanie Hanson
Sydney Simota
Viviane Roi

ARTS IN THE PARKS
ROSLAND
PHOTO BY
KATRIZZA (2025)

TOGETHER
THROUGH
ART

ART THE ACROSS CITY

The TOgether Through Art initiative, launched by the Toronto Arts Foundation with the support of Mayor Olivia Chow, brought together more than 40 arts organizations across the city in a shared effort to foster belonging, empathy, and connection through arts. The campaign highlighted 331 events, performances, workshops, and festivals during the summer and fall of 2025 that invited residents to gather and engage with one another through creative experiences.

“Through artistic and cultural expression, we share in each other’s perspectives and ways of life, and we build common bonds and understanding with people from all backgrounds. The TOgether Through Art campaign is about building this empathy and fighting against divisiveness.”

—MAYOR OLIVIA CHOW

We know art is crucial when it comes to community building, fostering a sense of belonging, and connecting us across differences. According to a 2025 Environics survey commissioned by Toronto Arts Foundation and funded by the Toronto Foundation, 72% of arts events attendees felt that participating in these experiences brought them closer to their neighbours and provided genuine moments of cross-cultural understanding.

**“THE ARTS HELP US
SEE EACH OTHER.”**

—MAYOR OLIVIA CHOW, ANNOUNCING THE INITIATIVE

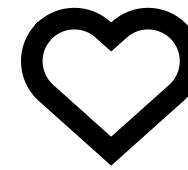
“At a time when life feels increasingly lonely, Torontonians can tap into the rich cultural offerings of its many creative hubs to find community and human connection. TOgether Through Art invites everyone in Toronto to experience the transformative power of creativity in their lives.”

—KELLY LANGGARD, DIRECTOR & CEO
TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL AND FOUNDATION



ARTS IN THE PARKS
ROSYLAND
PHOTO BY
KAT RIZZA (2025)

DONOR SPOTLIGHT MARTHA BURNS



For more than three decades, Martha Burns has championed the power of the arts to transform young lives.



PHOTO BY
GG AGENCY.

An award-winning actor, arts educator, and filmmaker, Martha Burns is a founding member of Soulpepper Theatre, where she helped shape one of Toronto's most influential cultural institutions. Alongside her work on stage and screen, she has also been a passionate advocate for arts education and youth engagement.

That commitment led her to establish the Arts for Youth Award in 2007, with the generous support of Jim Fleck and Sandra and Jim Pitblado. As of 2025, the award has contributed more than \$375,000 to organizations who use the arts to create opportunities, build confidence, and strengthen communities for young people across Toronto.

The award's origins were deeply personal. "The creation of the Arts for Youth Award

didn't start with a formal strategy," Martha recalls. "...So much of my career has been shaped by working with young people and helping create pathways into the arts. The award grew out of the opportunity to collaborate with other supporters with a shared belief in the importance of arts education and youth engagement, and a need to give youth programs more visibility."

At the time, Soulpepper was expanding its education and outreach efforts, and Martha was leading the development of programming for young people. After attending one of the early Mayor's Arts Lunches, Martha worked with the Toronto Arts Foundation to create an award that would recognize organizations making a difference through arts-based programming for youth.

"It's so important that we recognize the programs hidden in the community. While gathering people to celebrate the power of the arts in Toronto, we wanted to shine a light on the people and places that transform the lives of young people and make a significant difference to their community".

From the beginning, the award was designed to do more than acknowledge excellence. It was intended to provide organizations with what Martha describes as “dream money”, or funding that would allow them to pursue projects that might otherwise remain out of reach.

“We wanted to give organizations the chance to do the things they wanted to do but couldn’t afford,” she says. “To try out fresh ideas and dream big.”

Over the years, Martha’s support has extended far beyond her own philanthropy. She has also encouraged others to invest in the causes they care about and to recognize the collective impact that individual contributions can have.

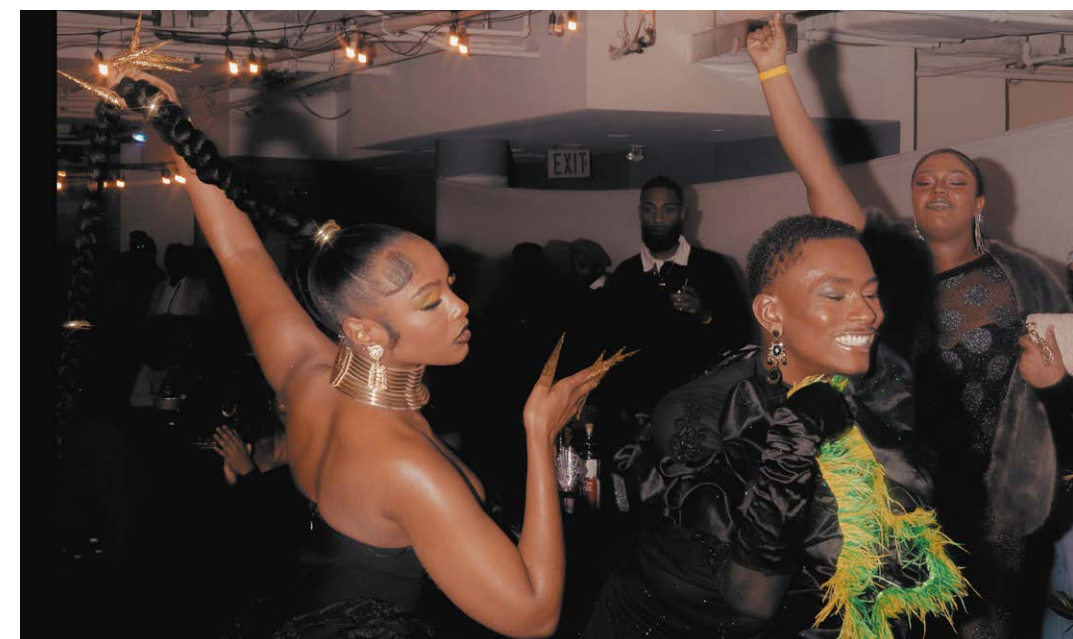
“You don’t need to be a major donor to make change,” she says. “There are so many people who care deeply about the arts and want to find ways to contribute. Awards like this, where you can see the direct impact on individual lives and communities, can be a meaningful way to share in the power of the arts.

As the Arts for Youth Award approaches the end of its second decade, its legacy can be seen not only in the organizations it has supported, but in the generations of young people whose creativity, confidence, and sense of belonging have been strengthened through the arts. It is a legacy built on a simple but powerful belief: that every young person deserves the opportunity to imagine, create, collaborate and thrive.

“YOU DON’T NEED TO BE A MAJOR DONOR TO MAKE CHANGE. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THE ARTS AND WANT TO FIND WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE. AWARDS LIKE THIS, WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE DIRECT IMPACT ON INDIVIDUAL LIVES AND COMMUNITIES, CAN BE A MEANINGFUL WAY TO SHARE IN THE POWER OF THE ARTS.”



ODDSIDE ARTS.
PHOTO BY JENNIFER
GOMEZ (2023).
ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD
FINALIST 2025.



TORONTO KIKI
BALLROOM ALLIANCE.
ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD
RECIPIENT 2025.



XENIA CONCERTS.
PHOTO BY NICOLA BETTS.
ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD
FINALIST 2025.



TRANSFORM SUPPORTS

Improve ways for artists, arts organizations, and communities to access meaningful, equitable, and accessible resources and opportunities by ensuring that our programs and services meet them where they are.

TRANSFORM OUR GRANTING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, ensuring that they are simple to find and use, offer relational value, and extend to those currently under-served.

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS ARTS, renewing policies, programs, and services in close consultation with Indigenous artists.

EXPAND ACCESS TO CREATIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT supports for youth, newcomer, 2SLGBTQIA+, and Indigenous creatives through mentorship and training programs.

EMBRACE DIGITAL TOOLS AND PROCESSES to improve service delivery and report on outcomes.

(FUND YOUR NEXT IDEA)

LANEIGH SHIRLEY.
PHOTO BY THULASI
MADHURI (2024).

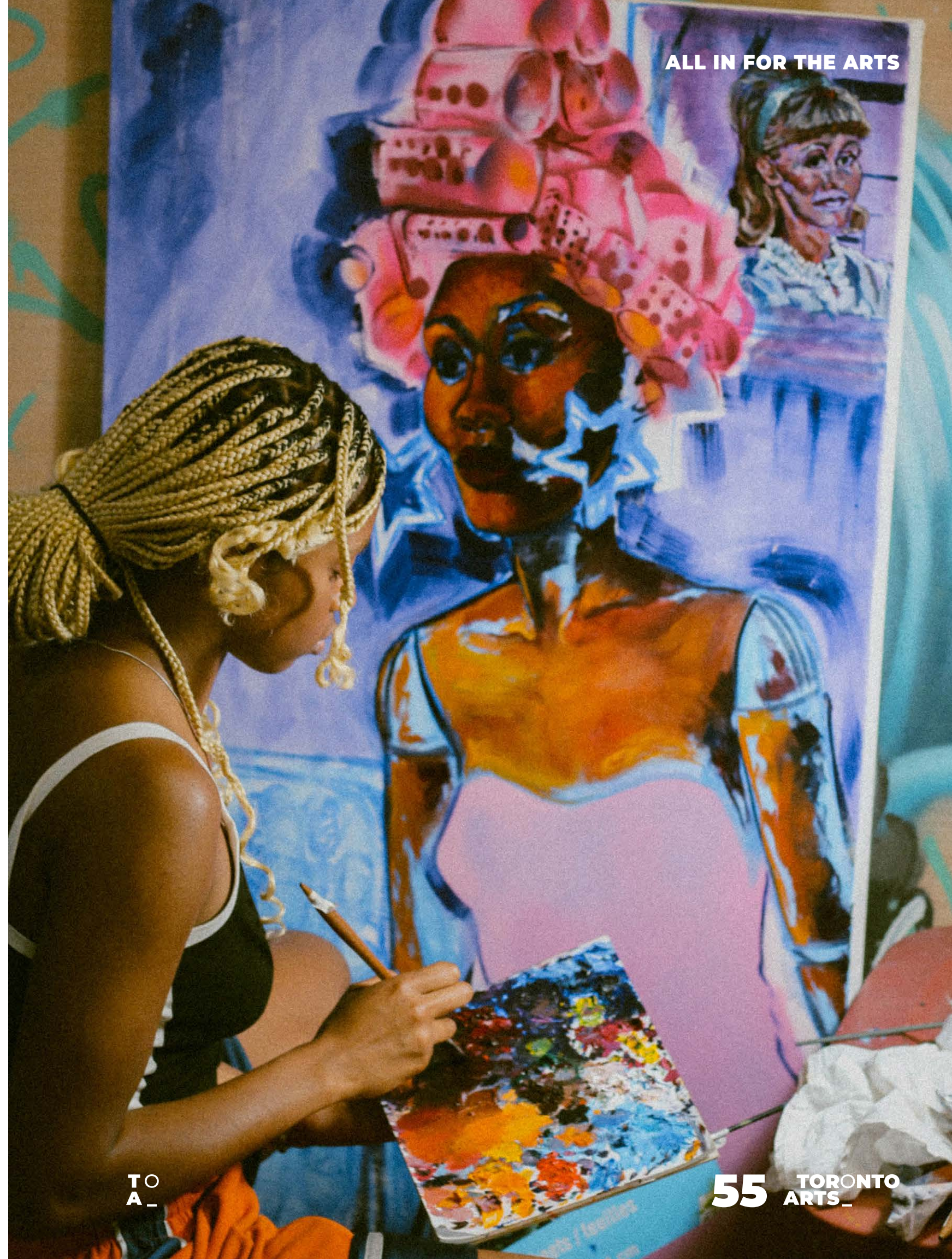
In 2025, Toronto Arts Council took an important step towards better supporting artists and the arts community. This work was guided by our commitment to making funding more accessible, easier to navigate, and more equitable. It was also shaped by the City of Toronto's Culture Connects plan, which encourages a more inclusive approach to sharing cultural funding.

Working alongside trusted partner Mass Culture, we connected with more than 200 artists and arts workers through interviews, surveys, and community sessions. These conversations gave us valuable insights into people's experiences and ideas for

improvement. We heard a clear call to simplify our processes, communicate more clearly, and strengthen how we connect with arts the community.

We're excited to put these ideas into action. One of the first steps is the development of an improved Accessibility Grant. Starting in 2026, artists will be able to apply for funding to support Deaf and/or disabled artists at any stage of their projects, making it easier to access support when it's needed most.

With careful planning and a strong focus on clear, open communication, we're committed to rolling out changes in a way that keeps communities informed and engaged.





SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS LEADERS AND ARTISTS

PHOTO BY
ROBBIE J HARPER (2025)

As part of our strategic priority to Transform Supports and guided by our value to Centre Indigenous Self-Determination, Toronto Arts reached out to Indigenous artists in our community for their expertise and leadership in reviewing our programming.

Together with Lindsey Lickers, a Toronto Arts Council board member, we hosted a community gathering with Indigenous folks in the Toronto arts community to hear their feedback about the work we do. This was a space to connect, reflect, and help shape the future of arts funding in Toronto.

To gather even more feedback, we created a survey for the wider Indigenous arts community and held two more community gatherings. The insights, experiences, and guidance that came to light are essential as we work towards meaningful, equitable, and effective processes and practices, and we'd like to express our gratitude to the participants for sharing their knowledge.

Recommendations include: developing community-informed recruitment processes for Indigenous-affirmed staff, board, and peer assessors, community-informed eligibility processes for the Indigenous Arts Projects grant, and creating an Indigenous Advisory Circle to guide the future of Indigenous programs, policies and initiatives.

On the Foundation side, the ArtWorksTO Indigenous Program, hosted by Neighbourhood Arts Network, was developed in 2025 by Indigenous artists and leaders who understand what it means to create within colonial spaces. It was designed as an ethical and culturally safe environment where Indigenous youth (ages 18–35) can learn, collaborate, and protect their identity while pursuing their artistic goals. Mentorship from Indigenous media artists, workshops on wellness, and full-moon sharing circles are at the core of this experience. The first cohort of artists began their work in 2026.



“This program was created so we could address specific cultural needs and provide a safe environment that can lead to greater participation and success for our Indigenous youth.”

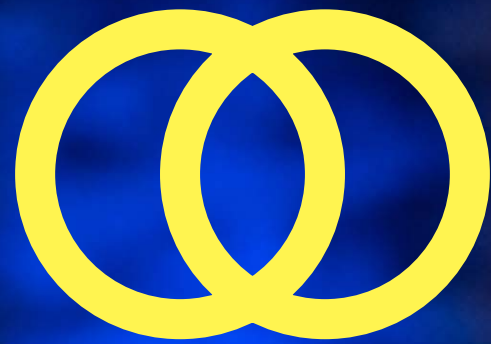
—KENNEDY SALLOUM,
ARTWORKSTO PROGRAM LEAD, INDIGENOUS COHORT

()

“WHEN IT COMES TO ARTS COUNCILS, THE INFORMATION COLLECTED ON THE GRANT APPLICATION SHOULD HELP CONFIRM A REAL, ONGOING CONNECTION. APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ASKED TO DESCRIBE THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITY, LAND, AND CULTURE, AS WELL AS ANY INVOLVEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS-LED ORGANIZATIONS OR CULTURAL PRACTICES.

Arts councils should also ask how applicants are recognized or supported by their Indigenous community or Nation. This isn't about policing identity, but about ensuring accountability and cultural safety by centering community recognition, lived experience, and respectful representation.”

—INDIGENOUS ARTS PROJECTS GRANT SURVEY PARTICIPANT



CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Increase access to the arts in neighbourhoods and public spaces across Toronto by supporting creative learning, engagement, social connection, cross-cultural dialogue, and improved mental health and wellness through the arts.

ENHANCE PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS that connect communities to the arts in libraries, schools, historic sites, and other public spaces.

INVEST IN INITIATIVES that build cross-cultural understanding and deliver social and health outcomes through the arts.

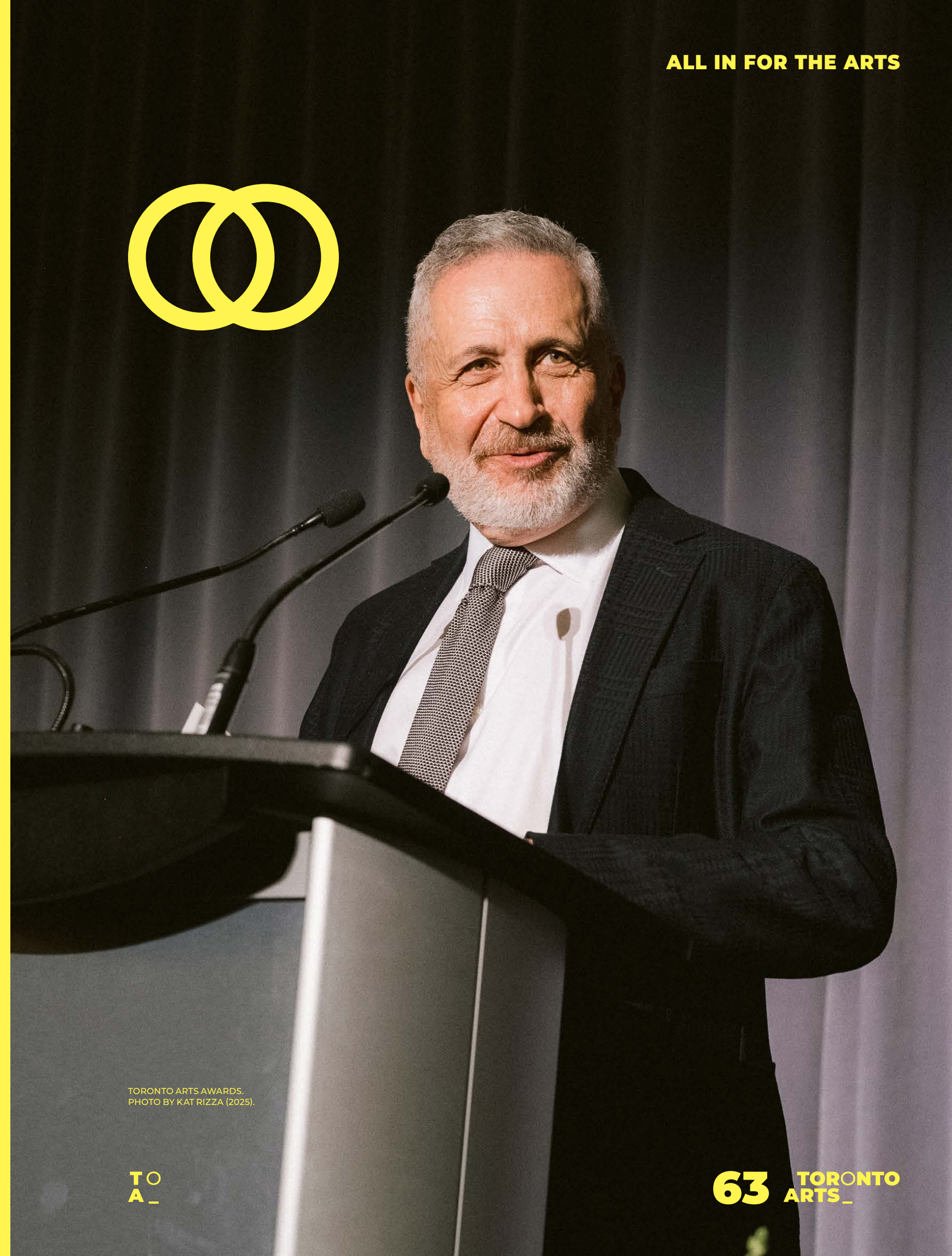
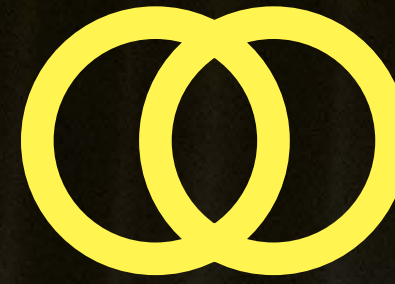
EXPAND PUBLIC PARKS PROGRAMMING to involve and benefit communities and partners in more neighbourhoods across the city.

AMPLIFY THE AVAILABILITY of arts experiences in Toronto, in collaboration with the City of Toronto and other partners.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT MOD DEVELOPMENTS

A conversation with Gary Switzer

Long-time Toronto Arts Foundation partner and Community Arts Award sponsor MOD Developments approaches creativity and community through the built environment, but with a shared goal: a vibrant, connected Toronto. We spoke with CEO Gary Switzer about the relationship between arts, culture, and the spaces that bring communities to life.



TORONTO ARTS AWARDS.
PHOTO BY KAT RIZZA (2025).

**TORONTO
ARTS:**

MOD Developments has been a significant sponsor of our work since 2019. What inspired that relationship and why do you continue to support Toronto Arts Foundation?

**GARY
SWITZER:**

MOD's commitment to art, culture, and community long predates our involvement with Toronto Arts Foundation.

Since our earliest projects, we have integrated arts and culture into the communities we build. From commissioning Eldon Garnet's landmark Artifacts of Memory at Five St. Joseph, to supporting the restoration and expansion of Massey Hall through Massey Tower, to incorporating artist housing and public art by Canadian artists at Waterworks, we believe thriving communities are strengthened by the meaningful inclusion of art and artists. This longstanding dedication to the arts naturally led us to support Toronto Arts Foundation. We share its vision of a vibrant Toronto where artists are valued, culture is celebrated, and the arts help foster connected, inclusive communities for all.

TA:

The Community Arts Award is dedicated to increasing access to arts and culture in community. As a developer and Torontonian, what do you think the role of the arts is in building community?

GS:

We believe the arts are a fundamental component of community-building, which is why MOD was proud to sponsor the Community Arts Award. Strong communities are built through meaningful connections—bringing people together and helping us learn from one another. In an increasingly digital world, where

isolation can too easily take hold, the arts create opportunities for engagement, dialogue, and a sense of belonging.

These shared cultural experiences strengthen the social fabric of our city: a connected community is a resilient community.

TA: Both developers and artists think deeply about how Toronto's space is used. In a city where space is at a premium, what role do cultural spaces play in a mindfully built city?

GS: Cultural spaces are essential to the health and vitality of a city. A thriving public realm depends on a diversity of uses, and cultural destinations are among the most powerful drivers of activity and engagement. Whether it is theatre patrons dining at nearby restaurants or gallery visitors supporting local retailers, cultural venues generate economic activity while enriching the social life of a neighbourhood.

Historic images of Yonge Street in the 1960s capture this dynamic vividly, with bustling sidewalks animated by movie theatres, bookstores, record shops, music venues, and nightclubs. These cultural destinations helped create the energy and character that defined the street and drew people together.

As cities evolve, it is critical that new developments incorporate cultural spaces and venues that serve contemporary audiences. By integrating art into the built environment, we can help sustain vibrant street life, foster community connections, and preserve the diversity that makes great cities thrive.



TORONTO ARTS AWARDS. STREET VOICES, COMMUNITY ARTS AWARDS RECIPIENT. PHOTO BY KAT RIZZA (2025).

“BY INTEGRATING ART INTO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, WE CAN HELP SUSTAIN VIBRANT STREET LIFE, FOSTER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, AND PRESERVE THE DIVERSITY THAT MAKES GREAT AS CITIES EVOLVE.”

—GARY SWITZER, CEO, MOD DEVELOPMENTS

ARTS IN THE PARKS

BY THE NUMBERS

Arts in the Parks is Toronto Arts Foundation's signature summer-long event series designed to build community connection through accessible arts experiences in public spaces across Toronto. In the summer of 2025 alone, more than 140,000 people attended over 300 events in 27 parks citywide, creating paid opportunities for nearly 900 artists.

ARTS IN THE PARKS
MILQ DANCE
PHOTO BY KAT RIEZA (2025)

**“I see everyone enjoying outdoor events.
It’s inspirational, it unites the community.”**

**“Such positivity! All felt welcome!
There should be more!”**

**“I love to see this beautiful park being
used in this manner. Thank you!”**

ARTS IN THE PARKS.
PHOTO BY KAT RIZZA (2025).

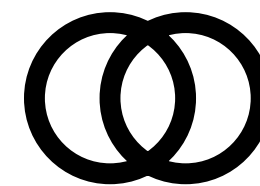


ALL IN FOR THE ARTS

Since launching in 2016, Arts In the Parks has welcomed more than 840,000 audience members to over 2,700 free events featuring dance, theatre, music, film screenings, and workshops for all ages. It’s an important entry point for many to the Toronto arts scene; almost 60% of attendees are first-time participants who are not regularly engaged with the arts in Toronto.

As part of our strategic priority to Connect Communities, Arts in the Parks provides local artists paid opportunities across the six boroughs of Toronto. Neighbours can meet each other in Toronto’s green spaces to enjoy free, and barrier-free, cultural programming.

Arts in the Parks is proudly presented in partnership with the City of Toronto, Toronto Arts Council, and Park People.



TO
A_

69

**TORONTO
ARTS_**

SPOTLIGHT



ROSYLAND

Every Thursday evening in August, Lee Lifeson Art Park in North York transformed into a creative wonderland celebrating friendship, community, environmental sustainability, and the universal language of music.

Each week's interactive concert featured music from different genres that took audiences all over the world. From European Medieval/Renaissance tavern music to traditional Chinese instruments, from Brazilian jazz to Korean pansori and Indian folk, ROSYLAND encouraged visitors to open their minds. Joining hands to learn the Bear Dance, guests were inspired to find their inner playful creativity while collectively experiencing connection with their neighbours.



OUR WORK IN ACTION:

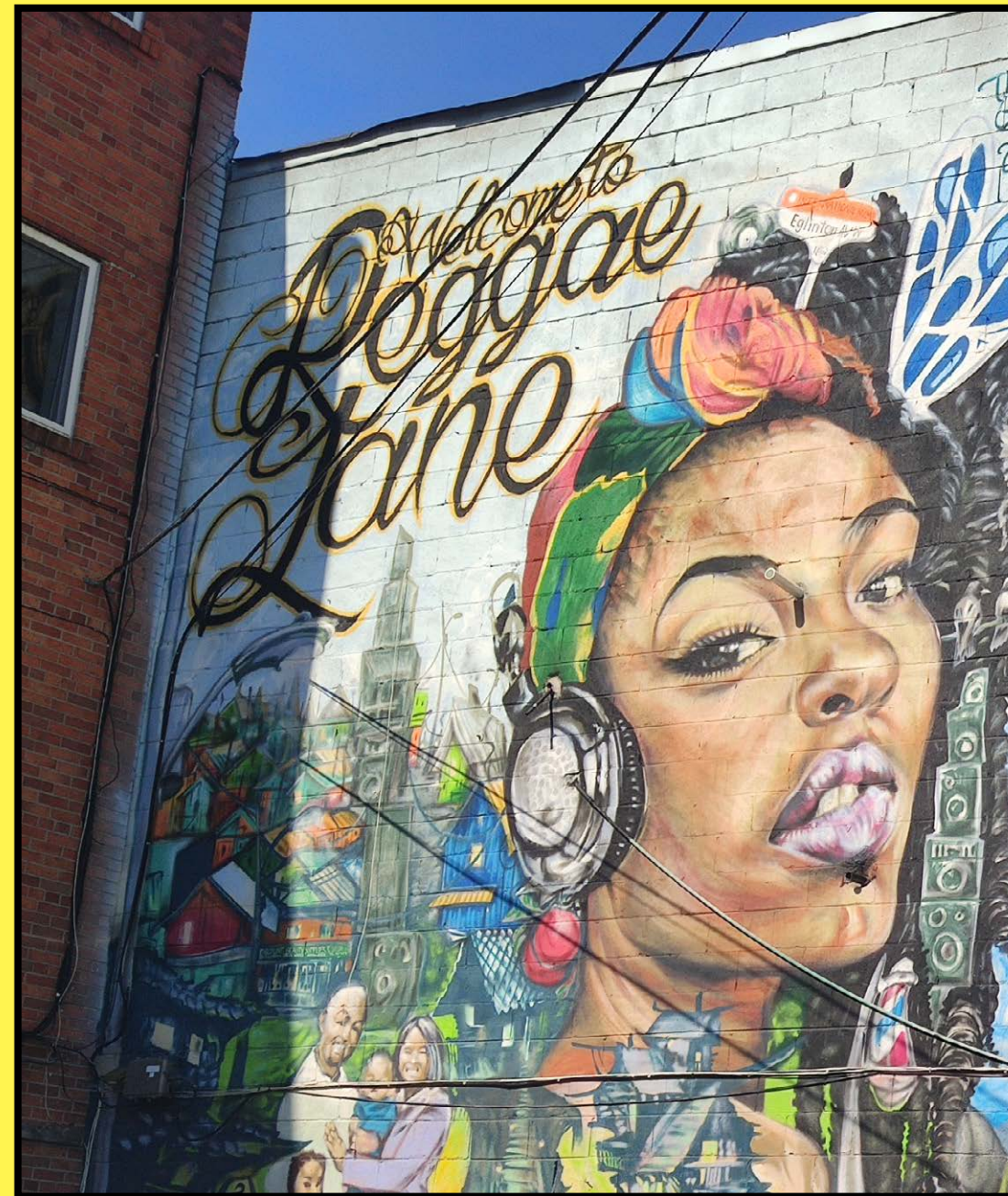
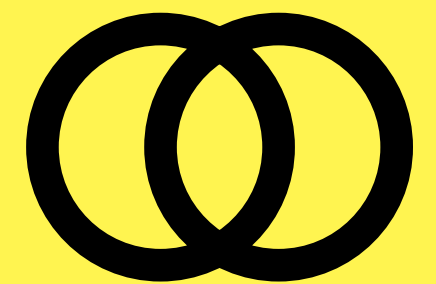
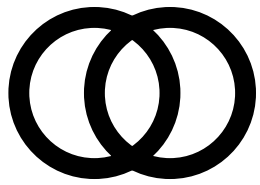


PHOTO BY
THELITTLEJAMAICA.COM



THE LITTLE JAMAICA CULTURAL CORRIDOR

ALONG EGLINTON WEST, LITTLE JAMAICA IS A CULTURAL CORRIDOR SHAPED BY MIGRATION, MUSIC, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE. SPANNING WARD 8 (EGLINTON-LAWRENCE) AND WARD 12 (TORONTO—ST. PAUL'S), IT SITS AT THE INTERSECTION OF TWO VERY DIFFERENT URBAN REALITIES. IN 2025, TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL INVESTMENTS ALONG THIS CORRIDOR SHOW HOW THE ARTS DO MORE THAN ANIMATE NEIGHBOURHOODS; THEY STABILIZE THEM, CONNECT THEM, AND ENSURE THAT CULTURAL IDENTITY REMAINS STRONG IN THE FACE OF RAPID CHANGE.



On paper, Eglinton–Lawrence is one of Toronto’s more affluent wards, with relatively low overall poverty rates. Yet, averages mask stark disparities. Certain neighbourhoods within the area continue to face concentrated low income, youth employment challenges, and longstanding concerns around access to opportunity. At the same time, the ward is experiencing demographic change, with a growing senior population and a new wave of immigrants joining long-established communities.

In Little Jamaica, these shifts are met with a powerful, community-led response, and arts organizations play a vital role in addressing gaps in access, connection, and opportunity. For example, **Art Starts**, a cornerstone of the Little Jamaica cultural corridor, received \$95,000 through operating funding in 2025. Since its founding in the Eglinton/Oakwood neighbourhood in 1992, Art Starts has used multilingual theatre, music, and community-based programming to build mutual understanding and celebrate local diversity. Today, its work spans Little Jamaica, Oakwood Village, and Lawrence Heights, offering year-round after-school programs, youth mentorship through CultureShift, digital arts training, and seasonal camps that centre creativity as a tool for confidence and community-building.

At **SoundCheck Youth Arts**, a decade of grassroots work has built a music hub where talent is nurtured without cost. In 2025, SoundCheck Youth Arts received \$29,375 in Toronto Arts Council operating funding, an increase of \$9,375 from the year before, along with Open Door funding for the Paid to Play (P2P) initiative for Black youth to move from passion to profession, accessing mentorship, studio space, and industry pathways that have historically been out of reach. This is a place where music is not just expression, it is employment, identity, and future-building.

At Walter Saunders Memorial Park, our Arts in the Parks program transforms an everyday green space into a stage for global cultural exchange. Brazilian rhythms, African dance, storytelling, and visual arts draw neighbours together beyond audiences and as participants. Children learn new dances alongside elders. Newcomers see their traditions reflected. Longtime residents encounter cultures that mirror the corridor’s evolving diversity. These moments of shared experience build a sense of belonging.

Crossing into Ward 12, Little Jamaica connects to a dense and vibrant arts ecosystem where creativity is woven into daily life. Census data points to a highly educated, diverse population and a housing landscape shaped by renters, contributing to a fluid, fast-changing urban environment. Within this context, arts organizations act as anchors.

Nia Centre for the Arts is one of those anchors. Its presence strengthens the corridor’s identity as a centre for Black creativity and youth development. With an increase in Toronto Arts Council operating funding to \$85,000 in 2025, Nia Centre plays a key leadership role in supporting and showcasing arts from across the African Diaspora. Its work creates space for young Black artists to develop, produce, and share their work on their own terms, ensuring that cultural production remains rooted in community, even as the surrounding city evolves.

Together, these investments tell a larger story about the role of public arts funding. In Little Jamaica, the arts are not an add-on to community life, they are infrastructure. As Toronto continues to grow and change, Little Jamaica offers a clear example of what is at stake and what is possible. With sustained, targeted investment, arts funding ensures that creativity remains accessible and deeply rooted in the lived experiences of its communities.



ART STARTS.
PHOTO FADY EL
MALAKH (2022).



SOUNDCHECK
YOUTH ARTS. PHOTO
SOUNDCHECK’S WEBSITE.



NIA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS.
PHOTO NIA CENTRE’S WEBSITE.



LEAD GLOBALLY

Create opportunities for exchange, presentation, and promotion of Toronto arts abroad by connecting artists, arts leaders, and arts organizations to international networks, collaborators, and audiences and enhancing Toronto's profile as a global creative city.

INVEST IN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and foster creative partnerships that increase international connections and opportunities for artists and arts organizations.

ENGAGE IN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS and convenings and develop relationships with funders abroad.

SUPPORT LOCAL ARTS INITIATIVES AND EVENTS that attract cultural tourism and collaborators to Toronto, working with the City of Toronto and other partners.

ENHANCE THE FOUNDATION'S AWARDS PROGRAM to create opportunities for international exposure and connection for award finalists and recipients.

“I think the award helped build credibility and helped bring attention to the work that we’re doing. ... I think awards are important because it’s a good reminder. You’re doing good work, but through the day-to-day drudgery, you can forget. You can get lost. You get discouraged. But [the award] is like a good adrenaline boost. It’s a good positive affirmation.”

—JOEL ZOLA, FOUNDER OF STREET VOICES

AWARDING LOCAL EXCELLENCE



PHOTO BY
KAT RIZZA (2025).

TORONTO ARTS AWARDS

PHOTOS BY
SELINA MCCALLUM (2025).

ALL IN FOR THE ARTS

The Foundation's Toronto Arts Awards are presented to artists, cultural leaders, and arts organizations in recognition of artistic excellence, cultural leadership, and outstanding contribution to the arts. The awards celebrate artists and arts leaders as part of our strategic priority to Lead Globally and help artists advance in their professional career and creative journey.

Financial support is provided through a combination of legacy and annual donations from generous individual and corporate donors. In 2025, \$147,000 was awarded to artists and arts organizations who contribute massively to Toronto's arts ecosystem and their creative field.



MIO SAKAMOTO
RECIPIENT, BREAKTHROUGH
ARTIST AWARD (\$10,000)

Mio Sakamoto is a Toronto-based, Japan-born dance artist, Dora-nominated performer, choreographer, and co-founder of MilLO Dance Projects.

Finalists: Vladimir Kanic and Oreka James (\$2,000)

THE RECIPIENT PRIZE IN 2025 WAS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE AZRIELI FOUNDATION. FINALIST PRIZES ARE SUPPORTED BY TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION'S GENERAL DONATIONS.



TORONTO KIKI
BALLROOM ALLIANCE
RECIPIENT, ARTS FOR YOUTH
AWARD (\$20,000)

Founded in 2010 as a space to nurture the needs of Black and other racialized LGBTQI+ youth facing various barriers and trauma, the Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance provides a safe space for LGBTQI+ youth to be seen, protected, and celebrated.

Finalists: Xenia Concerts Inc. and Oddside Arts (\$2,000)

THE RECIPIENT PRIZE IN 2025 WAS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY MARTHA BURNS AND JIM FLECK. FINALIST PRIZES ARE SUPPORTED BY TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION'S GENERAL DONATIONS.



SASHOYA SIMPSON
RECIPIENT, CHE KOTHARI ARTIST
AND INSTIGATOR AWARD (\$10,000)

Sashoya Simpson is a Jamaican storyteller, writer, and theatre practitioner whose work draws on Caribbean folklore and cultural practices. She creates art to serve and uplift Black communities.

Finalists: Tyler J Sloane and Hannia Cheng (\$1,000)

THE RECIPIENT AND FINALIST PRIZES ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY CHE KOTHARI.



THE AWARDS CELEBRATE ARTISTS AND ARTS LEADERS AS PART OF OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY TO LEAD GLOBALLY AND HELP ARTISTS ADVANCE IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND CREATIVE JOURNEY.

PHOTO BY TORONTO KIKI BALLROOM ALLIANCE.



STREET VOICES
RECIPIENT, COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD (\$10,000)

Street Voices is a Black-led nonprofit empowering marginalized and at-risk youth through arts, media, and community engagement.

Finalists: imagineNATIVE and Mabelle Arts (\$1,000)

THE RECIPIENT AND FINALIST PRIZES ARE GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY MOD DEVELOPMENTS INC.



PHOTOS BY
SELINA MCCALLUM (2025)

WOLF'A:Z
RECIPIENT, INDIGENOUS ARTIST AWARD (\$20,000)

Wolf'a:z is a 2S Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga) Otahyo'ni: (Wolf Clan) artist from Six Nations, and based in Toronto, who creates pieces with a focus on Cayuga language revitalization, MMIW2SG, environmental stewardship, and celebrating Haudenosaunee culture.

Finalists: Catherine Blackburn and Samantha Sutherland (\$2,000)

In addition, the recipient selects an artist mentor/Elder or mentee/protegee to receive \$5,000. In 2025, Wolf'a:z selected Knowledge Keeper Barb Garlow.

THE RECIPIENT AND MENTOR/MENTEE PRIZES ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE K.M. HUNTER FOUNDATION. FINALIST PRIZES ARE SUPPORTED BY TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION'S GENERAL DONATIONS.



RYAN RICE
RECIPIENT, RITA DAVIES AND MARGO BINDHARDT CULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD (\$10,000)

Ryan Rice, a Kanien'kehá:ka curator from Kahnawake, has built a 30-year career curating contemporary and Onkwehón:we art in museums, galleries, and public spaces.

Finalists: Maxine Heppner and Nova Bhat-tacharya (\$1,000)

THE RECIPIENT PRIZE IS SUPPORTED BY TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION'S GENERAL DONATIONS. FINALIST PRIZES ARE SUPPORTED BY NEERA AND DEEPAK CHOPRA.



ROSHANE WRIGHT
RECIPIENT, BREAKTHROUGH JAZZ ARTIST AWARD (\$10,000)

Roshane Wright, a composer, arranger, and multi-instrumentalist from Portmore, Jamaica, now based in Toronto, blends his Jamaican roots with jazz in his music.

Finalists: Robert Lee and Anh Phung (\$2,000)

THE RECIPIENT AND FINALIST PRIZES ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY MICHAEL BOURGEOIS AND MARILYN LEGGE.

TORONTO ARTS AWARDS

The Newcomer Artist Award offers micro-awards of \$2,500 to six newcomer (immigrant and refugee) artists. The award aids the integration of newcomer artists into Toronto and Canada by supporting their artistic careers. Newcomer artists living across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and working in a range of disciplines are eligible for the award. The Newcomer Artist Award is presented every year in the spring.

The Award is generously sponsored by Bell Canada through their support of The Newcomer Artist Program.



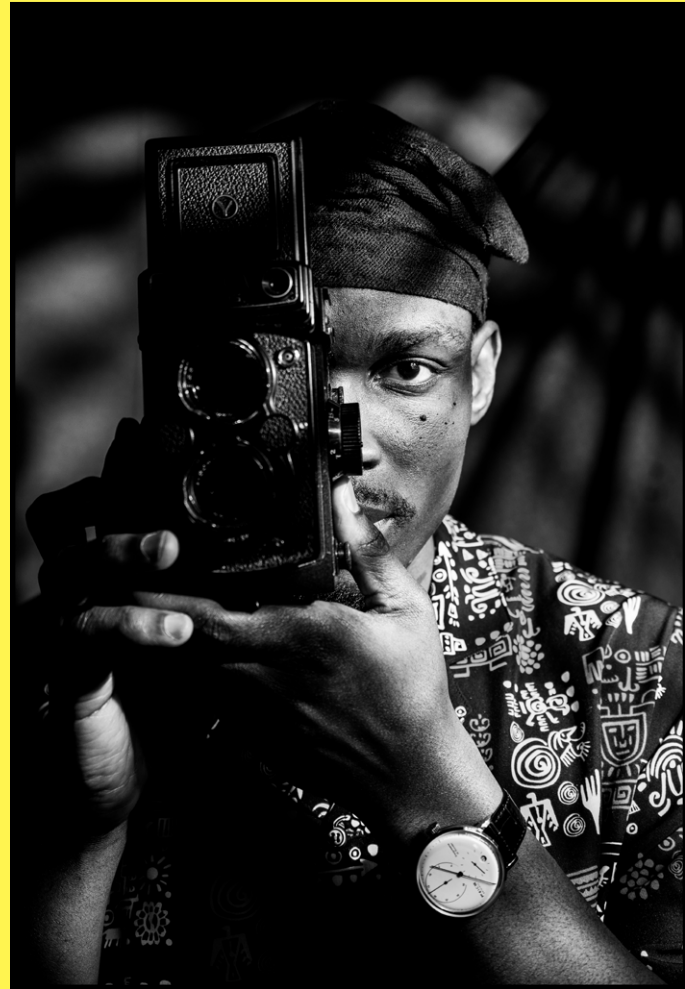
SEGUN CAEZAR is a Nigerian visual artist based in Toronto, known for his realistic portraits of Black subjects with De Stijl-inspired backgrounds. His work is currently exhibited at Toronto Union Station in *A Transit Through Time*, showcasing his unique approach to storytelling through portraiture.



BIBZ is a prominent figure in the Toronto House dance scene, known for his leadership and contribution to community. As the co-founder of Groovehouse Toronto and a founding member of House of Sole Crew, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the local House dance community post-pandemic. As winner of several dance battle competitions and talented DJ, he has earned respect and admiration in the Toronto dance community and beyond.



HONEY HOSEINY is a Toronto-based interdisciplinary artist, theatre director, designer, actor, and puppeteer originally from Iran. Passionate about blending traditional techniques with modern technology, his work spans interactive installations, immersive art, and theatre. Currently an apprentice artist with Modern Times, Honey continues to explore innovative storytelling as co-founder of the Simiya Group, fostering creativity and cultural dialogue through the intersections of performance and visual arts.



ADETONA OMOKANYE is a Nigerian Toronto-based photojournalist and visual artist whose work explores Africa's rich and diverse cultures, capturing its traditions, people, and social issues through the lens of their unique perspectives. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for storytelling, Adetona uses photography as a tool to showcase the beauty, complexity, and diversity of the African continent. Recently he started to explore new creative territory by integrating multimedia practice into his work.



WARDA ROSE is a filmmaker, entrepreneur, and cultural connector from Djibouti, now in Canada. She founded House of Arts, highlighting Black, BIPOC, and newcomer creatives. Her films and exhibitions explore roots, mental health, and sexuality. Currently, she's developing documentaries (A Cliff Becomes a Bridge & Ancestor Project) and a short film (Tahira), while preserving and globalizing East African arts and culture.



JINOOS TAGHIZADEH (born 1971) is a multidisciplinary Iranian artist, storyteller, and activist. A graduate in Sculpture and Literature Drama from the University of Tehran, she has exhibited her work internationally across various mediums for nearly 30 years. Since relocating to Toronto in 2022, she continues to evolve her creative practice by closely observing political and social issues.



MAKE THE CASE

Increase public appreciation for the value of the arts and the role of creativity in quality of life. Embracing our role as advisor and advocate, use compelling data and actions to highlight the positive impacts of the arts on our city.

ENGAGE IN RESEARCH AND STORYTELLING INITIATIVES

that demonstrate the economic, social, cultural, and community impacts of the arts in forms that can be widely used and shared.

CONVENE A DIVERSE RANGE OF INTEREST HOLDERS AND PARTNERS

to join our advocacy efforts and expand our reach, supporting action at the grassroots level.

OFFER ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

to the City of Toronto, other levels of government, and private funders and donors, for meaningful public and private investment in the arts.

INVEST IN GOOD DATA AND REPORTING SYSTEMS

that share the full impact of Toronto Arts investments.

INVEST IN THE ARTS, INVEST IN TORONTO



ROSA'S FLOWER,
PHOTO BY JESSE MARCELO SARKIS (2022).

Arts and culture are central to Toronto's vitality, functioning not only as drivers of social connection but also as foundational economic infrastructure. In 2024, Toronto's culture sector generated \$12.2 billion in GDP and supported 98,414 jobs, representing nearly 44% of Ontario's culture GDP and 37% of its cultural employment, according to the Ontario Arts Council. These figures underscore the city's role as a cultural and economic engine within the province.

Toronto Arts Council plays a critical role in sustaining this ecosystem through targeted public investment. In 2025, we administered over \$29 million in funding, distributing 954 grants totalling \$26.4 million

to 438 artists and 516 organizations. These investments enabled a remarkable breadth of cultural activity, supporting more than 13,000 programs and events across the city. Council-funded organizations paid 18,987 artists, approximately 60% of Toronto's artist workforce, and supported 3,718 jobs, half of which were full-time. In addition, more than four million audience members engaged with Council-funded programming, reflecting both the sector's reach and its public value.

Beyond direct outputs, Toronto Arts Council funding contributes to broader economic growth through strong multiplier effects. *Arts Across Ontario* analysis from 2022 indicates that Council-funded organizations generated

\$288 million in GDP and supported 5,345 jobs, with every dollar invested yielding a \$15 return. Simply put, investing in the arts is a safe bet if you're looking for solid returns.

At the same time, the sector faces structural financial pressures. The arts are inherently labor-intensive, with limited opportunities for productivity gains.

Producing live performances, exhibitions, or concerts requires similar levels of time and human effort today as in the past, yet wages must rise in line with broader economic trends.

As a result, costs increase faster than revenues, creating persistent funding gaps despite strong demand and efficient operations.

Within Toronto, these pressures are reflected in rising expenses, constrained organizational capacity, and ongoing income precarity among artists. Public investment through Toronto Arts Council is therefore not supplementary but essential. It offsets structural cost pressures, supports fair compensation, and ensures that cultural organizations can continue to produce work and engage with audiences in Toronto and beyond.

Arts and culture are not peripheral but central to economic development. Toronto Arts Council's investments sustain jobs, fuel creative production, and deliver measurable economic returns. Continued commitment to public arts funding is both a cultural priority and a strategic economic decision that strengthens Toronto's competitiveness, resilience, and global cultural leadership.



ARTS AND CULTURE ARE NOT PERIPHERAL BUT CENTRAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

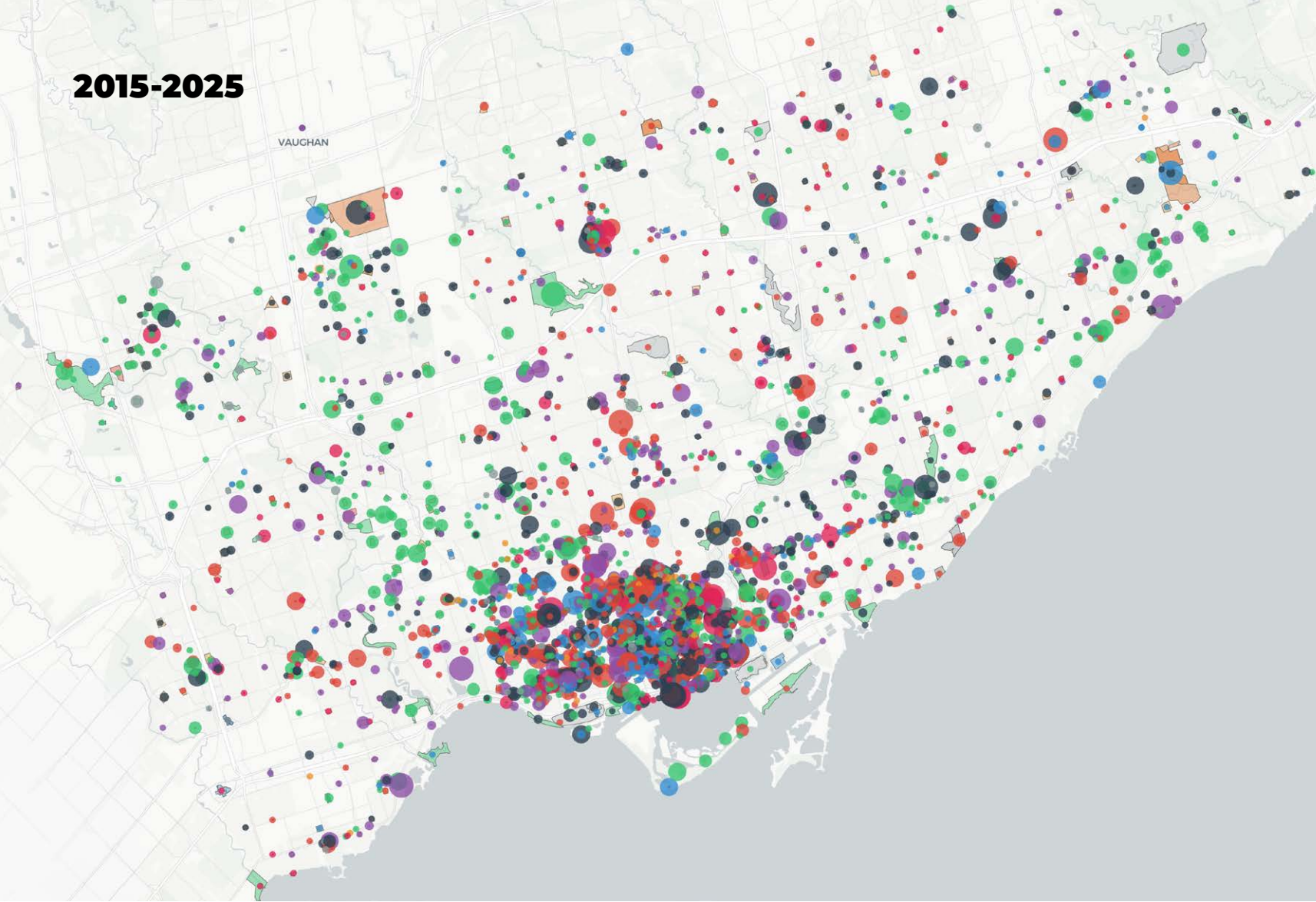
MAPPING GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

Toronto Arts Council supports equity, access, and community-engaged arts through grants programs such as Creative Communities, Black Arts, and the recently expanded Accessibility Grant, as well as newcomer and refugee programs, and supports for youth such as ArtReach. With the City's additional investment of \$2M to Toronto Arts Council's base budget, we made meaningful, measurable progress towards the City's 10-year culture plan, including increased support for Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving communities, and communities outside the downtown core.

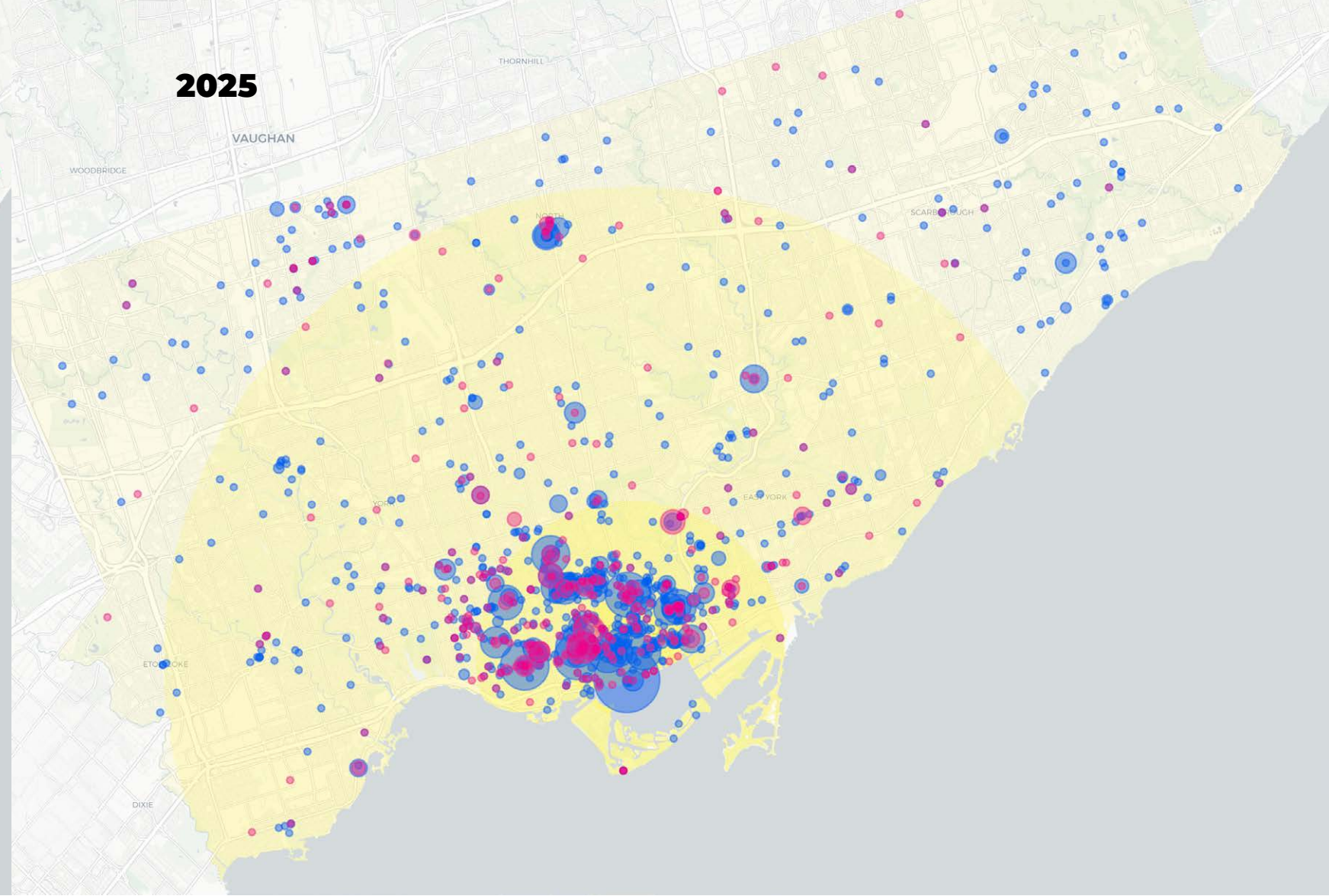


FILLTHEBLINK. PHOTO BY @FLEENORMALITY.CA (2024).

2015-2025



2025



MARKER SIZE
FUNDED
PROGRAMMING
INTENSITY

- RARE
- MID
- VERY HIGH

MARKER COLOUR
DISCIPLINE

- Music
- Theatre
- Dance
- Community Arts
- Literary
- Visual Media
- Mixed
- Unknown

To help visualize the breadth and scope of Toronto Arts Council support, we have been tracking where Council-funded arts activity happens for the past decade. We now have a database of 2,640 venues. These include dedicated cultural venues, but also nontraditional spaces such as churches, hospitals, libraries, parks, seniors' homes, and schools.

In 2025 alone, more than 1,000 venues hosted Council-funded activities, with 1 in 3 outside of the downtown core, reducing barriers to access and helping deepen neighbourhood connection to the arts.

However, surging demand means that we receive many more grant applications of merit than we can fund, and in 2025, we received the highest number of applications in our 52-year history. 954 grants were approved but this was less than half of what our peer assessors felt should have been funded, as they identified more than 1,000 applications, worth \$13M, that we couldn't fund. This also represents an additional 350 venues across the city that could have hosted more than 600 arts activities, many of which would have taken place outside of the downtown core.

This data makes it clear: our city is full of artistic talent, but the mounting need we are seeing cannot be meaningfully met by recent increases to our budget alone. We need additional and sustained funding to ensure that Toronto is a place where artists are given the opportunity to realize their creative potential.

- FUNDED ACTIVITIES
- UNFUNDED MERIT ACTIVITIES

ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN THE ARTS

ALL IN FOR THE ARTS

In 2025, Toronto Arts Council translated public investment into community impact by supporting artists, strengthening organizations, and ensuring that creativity remains at the heart of Toronto's present and future.

Through the City of Toronto's 2025 budget, Toronto Arts Council received a \$2 million base budget increase alongside a 2.5% inflationary adjustment. This investment is part of Culture Connects: An Action Plan for Culture in Toronto (2025-2035), the City's 10-year cultural roadmap. The plan commits an additional \$35 million in cultural funding over the next decade, including \$10 million dedicated to Toronto Arts Council.

As a key delivery partner for Culture Connects, Toronto Arts Council plays a central role in realizing its vision. In 2025, this meant direct increased investments in Toronto's arts organizations and artists. This comes at a critical time: in the 2024 Canada Council for the Arts and Context Research Group Arts Community Pulse Survey, 53% of arts organizations reported unstable financial situations. By investing in operating funding, Toronto Arts Council helps vital arts organizations to continue to serve their communities while they adapt to change and opportunity.

Toronto Arts Council-funded organizations continue to generate strong economic returns for the city. According to the Ontario Arts Council's 2025 Arts Across Ontario report, organizations funded by Toronto Arts Council generated \$288 million in GDP, supported 5,345 jobs, and contributed \$76 million in taxes in 2022.

Every \$1 invested by Toronto Arts Council yields a \$15 return through ticket sales, donations, and artist fees. The same report positions Toronto as Ontario's cultural powerhouse: its culture sector contributes \$12.2 billion to the province's GDP and supports 98,414 jobs, establishing a new benchmark for measuring cultural economic output and demonstrating the substantial return on municipal public investment.

NAISHI WANG.
PHOTO BY MAYA YONCALI (2024).





AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, THE ARTS DRIVE TOURISM, ANIMATE MAIN STREETS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO VIBRANT, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES. THE CITY'S CULTURE PLAN RECOGNIZES THIS, POSITIONING CULTURE AS BOTH AN ECONOMIC ENGINE AND A CORNERSTONE OF BELONGING AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

JAMIL. PHOTO BY JAE YANG (2025).

At the local level, the arts drive tourism, animate main streets, and contribute to vibrant, connected communities. The City's culture plan recognizes this, positioning culture as both an economic engine and a cornerstone of belonging and quality of life.

Toronto Arts Foundation took arts advocacy to the national level, amplifying a letter-writing campaign by the Canadian Arts Coalition to urge Prime Minister Mark Carney to reconsider projected federal arts funding cuts. This would have been a devastating blow to the arts in Canada, including Toronto. According to 2024 Canada Council for the Arts and Context Research Group Arts Community Pulse Survey, 95% of individuals and groups found it challenging to continue working in the arts sector, and 80% of organizations

struggled with recruitment and retention. It would also be a big blow to the national economy; growth in the arts and culture sector since 2011 has outpaced the growth of industries such as oil and gas, according to the 2025 report *Artworks: Canada's Arts and Culture Sector by Business / Arts, Canada Council for the Arts, and Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Business Data Lab*. After the campaign, the federal budget was released and included no cuts to the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts, instead providing a modest increase of \$6 million over three years.

The case for continued investment is clear. As part of our strategic priority to **Make the Case** for the arts, we will continue to advocate for increased public investment at all levels of government.

DONOR RECOGNITION + REPORTING



(IN) BLOOM GALA.
PHOTO BY KAT RIZZA (2025).

**MAYOR'S EVENING
FOR THE ARTS**

(IN) BLOOM GALA 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

GOLD GALA SPONSOR



GOLD VIP STAGE SPONSOR



GOLD ARTS IN THE PARKS SPONSOR



GOLD PRODUCTION SPONSOR



AWARD SPOTLIGHT SPONSOR



EXPERIENCE SPONSORS



Silent Auction Sponsor



Liquor Sponsor

SILVER GALA SPONSOR



SILVER ARTS IN THE PARKS SPONSORS



SILVER BLACK ARTS PROGRAM SPONSOR



SILVER ARTWORKSTO PROGRAM SPONSOR



SILVER NEWCOMER ARTIST PROGRAM SPONSOR



MEDIA SPONSORS



BEER SPONSOR



VENUE PARTNER



BRONZE SPONSORS

Amazon Brigitte Shim Destination Toronto The DH Gales Family Charitable Foundation
DiamondCorp / EllisDon Corporation Donald K. Johnson O.C., LL.D.
Dream Community Foundation Enbridge Exhibition Place Ernst & Young LLP Fitzrovia
Forum Asset Management Hogg, Shain & Scheck P.C., CPAs IUOE Local 793 IUPAT DC 46
KPMG LiUNA! Local 183 LIUNA Ontario Provincial District Council
Medallion Corporation Minto MT>3 OCAD University
Pattison Outdoor Advertising PortsToronto Prevail Activations PwC Canada
QuadReal Property Group Reliance Construction of Canada Ltd.
Sheet Metal Workers' + Roofers' Local 30 Sheridan College Sherrard Kuzz LLP
SKYGRiD Construction Inc. State Corp Sun Brite Altex / TORLYS
Sweeny & Co. Architects Inc. TCEU Local 416 / Toronto Police Association
Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP The Creative School, Toronto Metropolitan University
Toronto Professional Firefighters' Association Torys LLP
Uber Canada United Association Local 46

LEADERSHIP GIFTS

TD Bank Group

\$50,000 +

Castlepoint Numa Inc.*
RBC Foundation
The Rossy Foundation
UBC Built, Local 27*

\$25,000-\$49,999

Bell*
Choice Properties
CIBC Foundation*
Deloitte Canada
George Brown College
Humber Polytechnic*
K.M. Hunter Foundation
Mattamy Homes*
Menkes
MOD Developments
Nieuport Aviation
Northcrest Developments
OMERS
Oxford Properties*
Simons
Spirits Canada
Toronto Foundation
York University
Anonymous x2

\$10,000-\$24,999

Amazon
The Azrieli Foundation
Anne Brace
Martha Burns*
The Creative School, Toronto Metropolitan University
Destination Toronto
The DH Gales Family Charitable Foundation
DiamondCorp
Dream Community Foundation
Enbridge Gas Inc.
Ernst & Young LLP
Exhibition Place
Fitzrovia
Forum Asset Management
The DH Gales Family Charitable Foundation
IUOE Local 793
IUPAT DC 46
Donald K. Johnson O.C., LL.D.*
Che Kothari
KPMG
Marilyn Legge & Michael Bourgeois Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation
The Lewitt Family Foundation

LiUNA! Local 183
LIUNA Ontario Provincial District Council
The Judy and Wilmot Matthews Foundation
Minto*
MT<3
National Bank Financial
OCAD University
Pattison Outdoor Advertising
PortsToronto
PwC Canada
QuadReal Property Group
Reliance Construction of Canada Ltd.
Sheet Metal Workers' & Roofers' Local 30
Sheridan College
Brigitte Shim & Howard Sutcliffe
SKYGRiD Construction Inc
State Corp
Sweeny & Co. Architects Inc
Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP
Toronto Professional Firefighters Association
Torys LLP
Uber Canada
United Association Local 46

\$5,000-\$9,999

Margaret Atwood, C.C., O.Ont., FRSC
Cadillac Fairview
CUPE Ontario
Maureen & Victor Dodig*
EllisDon Corporation
Jim Fleck*
Hogg, Shain & Scheck Professional Corporation
LIUNA Local 506
McLean Smits Family Foundation
Daniel O'Donnell
Ontario Creates
Sherrard Kuzz LLP
Jonathan Simmons
Sun Brite Altex
Dermot Sweeny
TORLYS
TCEU Local 416
Toronto Police Association
The William and Nona Heaslip Foundation
Susan Wortzman

\$1,000-\$4,999

Mark Agius
Balfour Bowen Family Foundation*
Stefan Baranski
Jill Black
Harold Chmara & Danny Hoy*
Neera & Deepak Chopra*
Delaney Family Foundation

Dr. Sara Diamond, C.M., Ord. of ON, ICD.D, RCA*
Tristan Downe-Dewdney
DTAH
Patricia Francombe*
Joan Goldfarb
Jason Heideman
Michael Herrera
Claire Hopkinson & Victor Fritz*
IGM Financial
Jackman Foundation
Aaron Knight
Michelle Koerner
Kelly Langgard
LIUNA Local 506
LORD Cultural Resources Planning and Management Inc.
Don & Jane Moffat*
Nasir Noormohamed
Neil Pakey
Jenn Quinn
Cory Raymond
The Rogan Foundation
Surranna Sandy
Dianne Saxe
Don Schmitt
Rajiv Silgado
Glenn Smith
Toronto Downtown West BIA

\$500-\$999

Fran Accinelli
Alejandra Bravo
Brian Dawson
Joshua Dias & Sean Lee
Dorothy Engelman
Beverley Johnston
Ben Katz
Terence Kernaghan
Lucia Lee
Victoria Lee
Rob MacKinnon
Miss Moço
Noah Reid
John Shnier
Magali Simard
Celia Smith
Amanda Spencer
Michael Trent
UCC Group Inc.
Brandon Vickerd
Lenore Walters
Joyce Zemans*

\$100-\$499

Guillermo Acosta
Muhannad Alghoul
Sara Angel
Elizabeth Asselstine
Bobby Bedi
Sean Blake
Dane Bland
Rudy Bomben
Paul Boniferro
Thomas Bosley
Danielle Bourgon
Alex Briganti
Isabel Cascante

Rachel Chernos-Lin
Celine Chivotti
Amy Cole
David Copeland
Beverley Daniels, in honour of Bernice Harper
Richard P. Davidson
Jane Deluzio
Lana Difrancescomarino
Cheryl Duvall
Zahra Ebrahim
Chris Eby
Nancy Ezer, in memory of Neil Naft
Courtney & Tayves Fiddis
Michael Goldberg
Dina Graser & Lee Smolin
Margaret Grotenthaler
Andrew Guy
Sandra Haar
Michael Hancock
Susan Helfmeyer
Alice Ping Yee Ho
Umair Jaffar
Kema Joseph
Sadia Khamissa
Darren Kirkwood
Ms. Miriam Kramer
Ivan Lo
Mercedeh Madani
Leith Mason
Gavin Mast
Jeremy Maunder
Kay McKellar, in honour of John McKellar
Jill Merriman
Joe Mihevc
Melissa Miller
Aytakin Mohammadi
S. Mwarigha
Anna Nelson
Terry Nicholson
Michelle Parson, in memory of Gerry Williams
Valerie Quintal
Chris Radley
Nerys Rau
Ely Rosenblum
Julie Rowe
Daniel Saccon
Orit Sarfaty
Mandeep Sarna
Andrea Scarfo
Katherine Semcesen
Vicki St. Denys
Alida Stevenson
Cheryl Stone
Doron Telem
Alexandra ten Kortenaar
Mr. Jamie Thompson
Jason Thorne
Kim Tomczak & Lisa Steele
Robert Walter-Joseph
Susan Wright & John Sankey
Michelle Yeung & Michael Minchella
Anonymous

Recognition from Jan 1, 2025 to Dec 31, 2025. If you are interested in becoming a donor, changing your recognition, or would like more information about your charitable donation, please contact Courtney Fiddis at 416.392.6802 x 214 or courtney@torontoarts.org. Toronto Arts Foundation is a registered charity. Charitable Registration Number: 88854 7064 RR001 (*10 years of giving or more)

YEAR-ROUND SPONSORS

DONOR RECOGNITION + REPORTING

ARTWORKSTO YOUTH PROGRAM



ARTWORKSTO NEWCOMER PROGRAM



ARTS IN THE PARKS



LEADERSHIP GIFTS



NEWCOMER ARTIST PROGRAM LEAD SPONSOR
ARTS IN THE PARKS LEAD SPONSOR

MAJOR PARTNERS



BLACK ARTS PROGRAM



MENTORSHIP PROJECT

MEDIA PARTNERS



VENUE PARTNER



PROGRAM SUPPORT



NEWCOMER ARTIST PROGRAM



NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS NETWORK

MAYOR'S ARTS LUNCH SPONSORS



PRESENTING SPONSOR

CADILLAC FAIRVIEW
CUPE ONTARIO
DIAMOND CORP
EXHIBITION PLACE
FORUM ASSET MANAGEMENT
LIUNA OPDC
LIUNA! LOCAL 183
NIEUPORT AVIATION
ONTARIO CREATES
OXFORD PROPERTIES
CITY OF TORONTO
UBC BUILT, LOCAL 27
DONALD K. JOHNSON O.C., LLD

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

BOB BLAZEWSKI
NATALIE DASH
DR. SARA DIAMOND, C.M.
TRISTAN DOWNE-DEWDNEY
KIM GRAHAM
KIM LINEUS
ALEEM KANJI
AARON KNIGHT
DANIEL O'DONNELL
NEIL PAKEY
JANE RENWICK
ALFREDO ROMANO
PRIYA SARIN
CHERYL STONE
GARY SWITZER
LUIZA VIKHNOVICH
AMANDA WATKINS
KIM WRIGHT

WITH THANKS TO
MARY JANOZESKI & JAMIE THOMPSON
FOR THEIR 2025 SUPPORT

LUNCH BENEFACTORS

TORONTO DOWNTOWN WEST BIA

AWARDS SPONSORS

THE AZRIELI FOUNDATION
MICHAEL BOURGEOIS & MARYLIN LEGGE
MARTHA BURNS
NEERA & DEEPAK CHOPRA
JIM FLECK
THE K.M. HUNTER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
CHE KOTHARI
MOD DEVELOPMENTS
VALLEYVIEW ARTIST RETREAT

COMMITTEES BY DISCIPLINE

**3-YEAR TERMS,
VOLUNTEERS**

Black Arts
Paulina O’Kieffe-Anthony
Mark Campbell
Sedina Fiati

Creative Communities
Victoria Mata
Spencer Phillips
Flora Shum
Eva Hellreich
Cecilia Garcia
Amanda Bernard
Cole Forrest

Dance
Tamla Matthews
Emily Cheung
Bageshree Vaze
Nicole Inica Hamilton
Roxana Menzies
Shannon Litzenberger

Large Institutions
Tania Senewiratne
Matthew Fava
Sonia Sakamoto-Jog
Trina Moyan Bell

Literary
Roland Gulliver
Kristyn Dunnion
Tanya Turton
Jennifer Alicia Murrin

Music
Cheryl Duvall
Vanese Smith
Olivia Shortt
Paolo Griffin
Andrew Adridge
Kathleen Allan

Theatre
Michael Sinclair
Naz Afsahi
Andrea Vagianos
April Leung
Annemieke Wade
Ted Witzel
Keshia Palm

Visual/Media Arts
Sean Lee
Ilana Shamoan
Barbara Fischer
Naomi Johnson
Alana Traficante

Indigenous Advisory Table *
Sandra Laronde
Denise Bolduc
Lindsey Lickers
Jason Baerg
Kennedy Salloum
Jada Reynolds-Tabobondung

**temporary*

Open Door 2025

Charlene K. Lau
 Christopher Dennis
 Jani Lauzon
 Jessica Whitford
 Nicky Lawrence
 Paolo Griffin

2025-1 Indigenous Arts Projects

Vanessa Dion Fletcher
 Rhonda Lucy
 Cole Forrest
 Jenny Kay Dupuis

2025-2 Indigenous Arts Projects

Field Zapton
 James Monkman
 Vanessa Dion Fletcher

2025-3 Indigenous Arts Projects

Natalie King
 Meg MacKay
 Lesley Hampton
 Claudia Skunk
 GAELN

2025-1 Visual Artist Projects: Creation

Simon Fuh
 Lan "Florence" Yee
 Heidi McKenzie
 Paulette Phillips
 Oluseye

2025-2 Visual Artists Projects: Creation

Lan "Florence" Yee
 Paulette Phillips
 David Yu
 Natalie King
 Chiedza Pasipanodya

2025-3 Visual Artists: Creation

Heidi McKenzie
 David Yu
 Chiedza Pasipanodya
 Stefan Berg
 Jenna Faye Powell

2025-4 Visual Artists Projects: Creation

Lan "Florence" Yee
 Paulette Phillips
 Chiedza Pasipanodya
 Natalie King
 David Yu

2025-1 Black Arts Projects

Nikola Steer
 Sarah-Tai Black
 Mafa Makhubalo
 Ian Andre Espinet
 Francophone, Consultant
 Djennie Laguerre

2025-2 Black Arts Projects

Adeyemi Adegbesan
 Queen Kukoyi
 Dwayne Holness
 Jady "machiiinegunfunkk" Har-
 die-Bardy

2025-3 Black Arts Projects

Director Cazhhmere
 Jamera DaCosta
 Drew Smooth
 Joséphine Denis

2025-4 Black Arts Projects

Jasmine Vanstone
 Raven Lam
 Rich Kidd Tse Daniel

2025 ArtReach Toronto

Alice Wang
 Krish Dineshkumar
 Ganesh Thava
 Sophie Lyons
 Charro Torres
 Desiree McKenzie

2025-1 Creative Communities Projects

Clinton Ghosh
 Nicole "Nico" Taylor
 Alexia Bréard-Anderson
 Tijana Spasić

2025-2 Creative Communities Projects

Julia Hune-Brown
 Josh Rosen
 Elle de Lyon
 Paul-Daniel Torres

2025-1 Dance Projects

A. Portia Ehrhardt
 Collette Murray
 Joshua Swamy
 Shannon Litzenberger

2025-2 Dance Projects

Abel Hagos
 Dainty Smith
 Paulina Drohomyrecky
 Tracey Norman

2025-1 Literary Projects

Brooke Lockyer
 Jean Marc Ah-Sen
 Salma Hussain
 Tiara Jade Chutkhan

2025-2 Literary Projects

Jedidiah Mugarura
 José Teodoro
 Kristyn Dunnion
 Thea Lim

2025-1 Music Projects

Dione Taylor
 Joanna Majoko
 Joseph Glaser
 Jani Lauzon
 Dr. Ryan Scott

2025-2 Music Projects

Alysha Addetia
 Brenna MacCrimmon
 Andrew Scott
 Young Park

2025-1 Theatre Projects

Kanika Shani Ambrose
 Vincent Leblanc-Beaudoin
 Aaron Willis
 Marie Beath Badian

2025-2 Theatre Projects

Desirée Livingstone
 Mike Payette
 Rimah Jabr
 Victor Pokinko

2025 -1 Visual/Media Arts Projects: Presentation

Abedar Kamgari
 Aaditya Aggarwal
 Tristan Sauer
 Ilana Shamoan
 Barbara Fischer

2025-2 Visual/Media Arts Projects: Presentation

Heather Canlas Rigg
 Andreann Asibey (Drea)
 Nala Haileselassie
 Adam Bovoletis
 Naomi Johnson

2025 Newcomer and Refugee Artist Mentorship

Anahita Akhavan
 Jesse Wabegjig
 Naishi Wang
 Rayyan Dabbous
 Tarek Gherri

2025 Newcomer and Refugee Art Engagement

Farhia Tato
 Sanjeet Takhar
 Warda Rose
 Yazan Maarouf

2025 Community Music Making

Jennifer Collins
 Hussein Janmohamed
 Säye Skye
 Vivian Moens
 Jennifer Tung

2025 Animating Historic Sites

Fan Wu
 Lacie Burning
 Natasha Adiyana Morris
 Tamar Ilana

2025 Media Artists

Masashi Nishihata
 Cailleah Scott-Grimes
 Roya Delsol

2025 Writers Level 1

Cleopatra Peterson
 Graham Slaughter
 Joelle Kidd
 Sennah Yee
 Francophone consultant:
 Aurélie Resch

2025 Writers Level 2

Adebe DeRango-Adem
 Jennifer Alicia
 Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio
 Melissa Ren
 Sami Alwani
 Nuzhat Abbas

2025 Playwrights

Alten Wilmot
 Ahmad Meree
 Falen Johnson
 Norah Sadava
 Rose Napoli

2025 Animating Toronto Parks

Ashley Colours Perez
 Mila Natasha Mendez
 Spencer Phillips
 Ana Gabriela Lopez Castro
 Danielle Hyde
 Tamara Romanchuk

2025 Music Creation and Audio Recording

Brooke Blackburn
 Hill Kourkoutis
 LolaBunz
 Royal Wood
 Ryan Scott

2025 Creative Enquiry Lab

Miranda Liverpool
 Michael Palumbo
 Patricia Allison
 Taylor Gesner

2025 Artists in the Library

Apè Aliermo
 Kéita Fournier-Pelletier
 Sumia Juxun
 True Daley
 Wang Zi

GRANT REVIEW PANELS

**TORONTO
 ARTS _ COUNCIL**

AUDITORS REPORT

Report of the independent auditor on the summary financial statements

TO THE
DIRECTORS
OF TORONTO
CULTURAL
ADVISORY
CORPORATION
(OPERATING AS
TORONTO ARTS
COUNCIL)

OPINION

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, and the summary statements of revenues and expenses and changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Toronto Cultural Advisory Corporation (operating as Toronto Arts Council) (the "Corporation") for the year ended December 31, 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the financial statements, on the following criteria by management:

- a) The information in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete financial statements; and
- b) The summary financial statements contain all the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the complete financial statements, including the notes therein.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the

summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Corporation's audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND OUR REPORT THEREON

In our report dated May 27, 2026, we expressed an unqualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Hogg, Shain & Scheck PC

Authorized to practise public accounting by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

TORONTO, ONTARIO MAY 27, 2026

TORONTO CULTURAL ADVISORY CORPORATION OPERATING AS TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025

	CURRENT	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Cash		3,975,150	805,237
Short-term investments		—	2,760,365
Accounts receivable		10,604	13,460
Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable		47,921	39,129
Prepaid expenses		19,154	41,938
Due from Toronto Arts Foundation		52,257	—
		\$ 4,105,086	\$ 3,660,129
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		42,927	32,274
Grants payable		3,489,900	2,808,715
Due to Toronto Arts Foundation		—	14,583
Deferred grants		—	175,000
		\$ 3,532,227	3,030,572
NET ASSETS			
	UNRESTRICTED	572,859	629,557
		\$ 4,105,086	3,660,129

APPROVED ON BEHALF
OF THE BOARD



DIRECTOR



DIRECTOR



	CURRENT	2025	2024
REVENUES			
Grants - City of Toronto		29,396,947	26,394,600
Interest		331,012	388,753
Contribution - Toronto Arts Foundation		75,000	75,000
Rescinded allocations		60,976	73,967
Rental		48,206	5,629
Other grants and contributions		18,000	15,600
		29,930,141	26,953,549
EXPENSES			
Grants and awards		26,432,657	23,853,422
Salaries, wages and benefits		2,519,260	2,223,328
General and administration		430,180	246,929
Adjudication costs		333,240	240,852
Materials and supplies		248,932	180,520
National Arts Database		22,570	22,570
		29,986,839	26,767,621
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		(56,698)	185,928
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR		629,557	443,629
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR		\$572,859	629,557

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025

	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ (56,698)	185,928
Changes in non-cash working capital items:	2,856	8,681
Accounts receivable	(8,792)	(20,241)
Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable	22,784	(28,433)
Prepaid expenses	(66,840)	20,800
Due to / from Toronto Arts Foundation	10,653	(12,153)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	680,585	191,182
Grants payable	(175,000)	175,000
Deferred grants	466,246	334,836
Cash flows from (used by) operating activities	409,548	520,764
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Proceeds from sale (purchase of) of short-term investments	2,760,365	(238,026)
Cash flows from (used by) investing activities	2,760,365	(238,026)
INCREASE IN CASH	3,169,913	282,738
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	805,237	522,499
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$3,975,150	805,237

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025

AUDITORS REPORT

Report of the independent auditor on the summary financial statements

TO THE
DIRECTORS OF
TORONTO ARTS
FOUNDATION

OPINION

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025 and the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets, are derived from the audited financial statements of Toronto Arts Foundation (the "Foundation") for the year ended December 31, 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the financial statements, on the following criteria by management:

- a) The information in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete financial statements; and
- b) The summary financial statements contain all the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the complete financial statements, including the notes therein.

Management determined that the statement of cash flows does not provide additional useful information, and as such has not included this as part of the summary financial statements.

TORONTO, ONTARIO MAY 27, 2026

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Foundation's audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND OUR REPORT THEREON

In our report dated May 19, 2026, we expressed an unqualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the criteria disclosed above.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Hogg, Shain & Scheck PC

Authorized to practise public accounting by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

	CURRENT	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Cash		122,636	144,293
Accounts receivable		211,229	122,089
Harmonized Sales Tax receivable		33,327	74,351
Due from Toronto Arts Council		—	14,583
Prepaid expenses		3,500	25,619
		370,692	380,935
INTANGIBLE ASSET INVESTMENTS		43,076	—
		2,394,286	1,964,256
		\$2,808,054	\$2,345,191
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		69,586	27,301
Due to Toronto Arts Council		52,257	—
Deferred contributions		742,290	450,000
		864,133	477,301
NET ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED	1,943,921	1,867,890
		2,808,054	\$ 2,345,191
REVENUES			
Grants and donations		1,515,124	1,147,478
Mayor's Evening for the Arts		946,420	935,049
Arts Awards		205,678	179,001
Investment income		137,526	231,181
Endowment income		2,229	2,189
		\$2,806,977	2,494,898
EXPENSES			
Program delivery		2,142,513	1,949,885
Mayor's Evening for the Arts		433,330	405,271
Arts Awards		247,569	183,402
Grants to Toronto Arts Council		75,000	75,000
Investment management fees		17,334	17,234
Amortization		2,267	—
		\$2,918,013	2,630,792
		DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	(111,036)
			(135,894)
		CHANGE IN FAIR MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS	187,067
			66,770
		EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	76,031
			(69,124)
		NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,867,890
			1,937,014
		NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$1,929,499
			1,867,890

APPROVED ON BEHALF
OF THE BOARD



DIRECTOR



DIRECTOR

TORONTO ARTS_

LEADERSHIP

Kelly Langgard, Director & CEO
Rupal Shah, Director, Policy & Programs
Andrew Suri, Director, Planning & Operations

ADMINISTRATION

Georgia Champagnie, Senior Office Coordinator
Sarah Mangialardo, Senior Executive Coordinator

FINANCE

Armen Karapetyan, Senior Manager, Finance & Facilities
Abhishek Rao, Accounting Clerk

HUMAN RESOURCES & IT

Nidhi Kapoor, Manager, People & Culture
David Souza, Manager, Information & Systems Technology

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Jessica Rattray, Senior Manager, Marketing & Communications
Selina McCallum, Coordinator, Communications
Maggie Parkhill, Senior Coordinator, Marketing & Communications
Clau Souza, Senior Graphic Designer

RESEARCH & IMPACT

Kadija de Paula, Senior Manager, Research, Impact & Evaluation
Francois Lebas, Manager, Data Analytics

WITH THANKS TO DANE BLAND AND SARAH GLADKI FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL AND FOUNDATION IN 2025.

TORONTO ARTS_ COUNCIL

GRANTS DEPARTMENT

Yazmin Camacho Vela, Senior Coordinator, Operations & Grants Process
Cursimran Datla, Administrator, Technical Support
Christy DiFelice, Program Manager, Music
Tafiya Itiaba-Bayah, Program Manager, Dance
Onika Powell, Senior Manager, Outreach & Access
Lena Golubtsova, Program Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Peter Kingstone, Program Manager, Visual & Media Arts
Elahe Marjovi, Program Manager, Theatre & Large Institutions
Liza Mattimore, Program Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Sarah Miller-Garvin, Manager, Policy & Programs
Sumedha Mongia, Administrator, Grant Support
Kevin Reigh, Senior Manager, Arts Discipline Programs
Rudrapriya Rathore, Program Manager, Literary Arts & Music Operating
Joyce To, Administrator, Grants & Outreach
Jamie Whitecrow, Consulting Indigenous Arts Program Manager

TORONTO ARTS_ FOUNDATION

DEVELOPMENT

Courtney Fiddis, Senior Manager, Development
Sophie Brozowski, Senior Coordinator, Philanthropy
Josh Ricci, Senior Coordinator, Philanthropy

NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS NETWORK

Angie Araranda, Senior Manager, Arts & Community Development
Inés Aguilera, Manager, Neighbourhood Arts Network
Ximena Berecochea, ArtWorksTO – Newcomer Program Lead
Zyrelle Endozo, Coordinator, Mentorship & Programming
Norma Garcia, Manager, Experiential Learning
Kennedy Salloum, ArtWorksTO Program Lead, Indigenous Cohort
Hemangi Shroff, Membership & Engagement Coordinator

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Jaclyn Rodrigues, Senior Manager, Events & Initiatives
Alexandra Loewen, Manager, Events & Initiatives
Jeff McGillton, Coordinator, Public Engagement & Events
Alandra McKirdy, Coordinator, Special Events
Liz Tsui, Coordinator, Outreach & Awards
Jaclyn Rodrigues, Senior Manager, Events & Initiatives (on leave)
Liz Tsui, Coordinator, Outreach & Awards

TORONTO ARTS_ COUNCIL


Celia Smith, Chair
Michael Herrera, CPA, CA; Treasurer
Susan Wortzman, Secretary
Councillor Brad Bradford
Councillor Alejandra Bravo
Cheryl Duvall
Zahra Ebrahim
Roland Gulliver
Umair Jaffar
Sally Lee
Sean Lee
Lindsey Lickers
Kim Lineus
Victoria Mata
Tamla Matthews
Paulina O’Kieffe-Anthony
Devyani Saltzman
Tania Senewiratne
Michael Sinclair
Robin Sokoloski

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVED ON THE TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL BOARD IN 2025*:
*AS OF JUNE 2026

TORONTO ARTS_ FOUNDATION

Dr. Sara Diamond, C.M., Ord. ON, ICD.D, RCA; Chair
Michael Herrera, CPA, CA; Treasurer
Susan Wortzman, Secretary
Stefan Baranski
Bob Blazeovski
Dorothy Engleman
Nasir Noormohamed
Surranna Sandy
Orit Sarfaty
Brigitte Shim
Jonathan Simmons

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVED ON THE TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION BOARD IN 2025*:
*AS OF JUNE 2026



ALL
IN
FOR
THE
ARTS