

## 2007 / 2008 Program Highlights

### 2007 TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL FOUNDATION AWARDS

The 2007 **Toronto Arts Council Foundation Awards** were presented on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the second annual Mayor's Arts Awards Lunch. The awards celebrate artists, cultural professionals, and arts supporters from every creative discipline and are designed to highlight the significant contributions made by our city's cultural leadership.

The Regency Ballroom of the Four Seasons Hotel overflowed with local luminaries including Toronto Mayor **David Miller**; Soulpepper Theatre Company's founding members **Albert Schultz** and **Martha Burns**; multi-disciplinary dance-artist **Peter Chin**; ROM Director and CEO **William Thorsell**, architect **Bruce Kuwabara**; urban strategist **Joe Berridge**; curator **Judith Tatar**; Luminato CEO **Janice Price**; City Councillors **Joe Pantalone**, **Kyle Rae**, and **Sandra Bussin**; musician **Joe Sealy**; philanthropists **Sandra and Jim Pitblado**; Gardiner Museum's **Alexandra Montgomery**; Globe and Mail's **Phillip Crawley**; United Way of Toronto's **Frances Lankin**; and OCAD President **Sara Diamond**. **Patricia O'Callaghan**, singer extraordinaire, entertained the 350 lunch guests.



Sam (the Record Man) Sniderman receives a standing ovation at the Lunch.

#### Recipients of the 2007 Awards:

**Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award: FRANCO BONI**, as Artistic Director for The Theatre Centre, is committed to cultivating new work and fostering fresh talent.

**Muriel Sherrin Award for International Achievement in Music: LAWRENCE CHERNEY**, Artistic Director of Soundstreams Canada, is an internationally recognized oboist and an important interpreter of contemporary music.

**The Globe and Mail Business for the Arts Award: ROBERT LOWREY'S PIANO EXPERTS** has established itself as a committed supporter of artists and arts organizations, donating time, pianos, moving and tuning services, and sponsoring competitions.

**Arts for Youth Award: ARTS FOR CHILDREN**, lead by Founder **Lola Rasminsky** has pioneered arts programming for children and youth living in some of Toronto's most vulnerable neighbourhoods.

**RBC Emerging Artist Award: d'bi.young.anitafrika** is an internationally recognized dub poet, playwright, actor, community worker, and mentor for young artists in a range of socio-economic, political and cultural settings.



Presenter and past winner Lillian Allen, Award Winner Franco Boni, Claire Hopkinson, Executive Director of Toronto Arts Council Foundation and Mayor David Miller

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[www.torontoarts.org](http://www.torontoarts.org)

## PARTNERSHIPS MAKE ARTISTS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL TORONTONIANS

### Part of the Creative City: Block by Block Program

The Toronto Arts Council Foundation spearheaded innovative funding partnerships in 2006 which continued in 2007 with the **Department of Canadian Heritage** and the **United Way of Greater Toronto**, resulting in increased funding for artists and access to art for Torontonians.

The **United Way** provided **\$60,000** in 2007 to **15** projects which brought together professional artists with young people. By partnering with the Foundation, the United Way benefited from the wealth of knowledge of the Toronto Arts Council's committee members who assessed the artistic merits of the projects. Successful projects included:

#### **SWT Film Mentorship Collective**

offered weekly session to youth from the Jane/Finch neighbourhood. The project connected participants with professionals in film, writing, and theatre and allowed them to make their own original films. Participants visited the National Film Board, movie sets and editing suites, and attended film festivals.

**Expect Theatre** produced free urban arts training programs in music, spoken word, and dance led by artists for 200 youth in Rexdale. Participants demonstrated their newly acquired skills by performing at the urbanNOISE festival.

#### **The HopeWorks Connection**

established a Youth Jazz Orchestra for urban youth led by professional musicians in the Kennedy Park area.

Shadowland Theatre's Youth Group celebrated National Aboriginal Day with a performance entitled "First The Animals", an outdoor performance piece about the creation of the animals and the cycle of life in harmony with its surroundings.

Over **115,000** people attended events celebrating National Aboriginal Day, Canadian Multiculturalism Day and Canada Day created to increase the sense of pride, belonging, and shared citizenship through participation in the arts. Through the Foundation's funding partnership with the **Heritage Canada**, **\$73,000** was distributed to 20 organizations whose projects were assessed by the Toronto Arts Council. Here are just a few of the projects supported:

**Drum Artz Community Centre:** Children from the St. Jamestown neighbourhood (the Samba Kidz) learned to play musical rhythms, developed leadership skills and gained confidence as they worked together to create a dynamic performance for Toronto's official Canada Day Celebrations at Queen's Park.

**Inner City Angels'** professional artists guided young new Canadians in designing and building the Celebrate Canada Heritage Arts Wall which incorporated expressions of individuality, creativity and impressions of their new country.

**Shadowland Theatre's** youth theatre group attended sessions conducted by artists in improvisation, stilt walking, puppetry, mask and costume building, and participated in the National Aboriginal Day Parade, culminating in a performance in Trinity Bellwoods Park.



Youth at the urbanNOISE Festival

"The arts are a key component of United Way's strategy to offer opportunities for youth," said **Frances Lankin, President and CEO, United Way of Greater Toronto.**

"Research shows that the arts have positive impact for youth, especially those at risk, and helps engage them while developing skills."



## ART AT THE HUB: A SYMPOSIUM ON MAKING ART LOCALLY

Part of the Creative City: Block by Block Program



Sharing ideas during group discussions

**Art at the Hub**, presented by the Foundation in partnership with Art Starts Neighbourhood Cultural Centre, was held on March 20th, 2008 at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre. The event provided opportunities to exchange ideas, build new partnerships and create dialogue between artists, arts organizations, social service agencies, community developers and city builders around the vital role the arts play in engaging, animating and enlivening community spaces.

The symposium began with internationally renowned community artist Lily Yeh sharing her journey as an artist who had a mission to transform a community that had become destitute and desolate. The day's agenda continued with artists discussing art in unlikely places and break-out group sessions on place-based community-engaged arts projects. Joe Berridge spoke from a city planner's point of view, and discussions ensued on the role of arts in the revitalization of neighbourhoods. For the final session, all participants were asked to discuss and share their visions of the ideal place to create community-engaged art. The day ended with a reception which gave participants the opportunity to continue their discussions and to view the

exhibition of photos on display of some of Toronto's community-engaged arts projects.

While the majority of 150 attendees were from the Community Arts field, many of their partnering organizations were represented, including community and social service centres (West Hill Community Centre, Jane/Finch Community Centre, Central Neighbourhood House, Davenport Perth Neighbourhood House), Toronto Community Housing, students and instructors from York and OSIE, and funders from the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council, the Youth Challenge Fund, Great West Life, and the Laidlaw Foundation.

The symposium final report and follow-up consultations will determine recommendations for the Foundation's Creative City: Block by Block program. The symposium was generously supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Great-West Life, Public Interest, Urban Strategies Inc. and Harbourfront Centre.



Panel members Toronto City Councillor Joe Mihevc, Artist & Art Starts Program Manager Elizabeth Cinello and Keith McNair of Davenport Perth Neighbourhood House answer questions from the audience.



*We transform the physical space into a spiritual space, an emotional space.*

Lily Yeh,  
Founder of the Philadelphia Village of Arts and Humanities



Envisioning elements of the ideal place to create community-engaged art.

**For more information on the Creative City Block by Block Program go to [www.torontoarts.org](http://www.torontoarts.org).**

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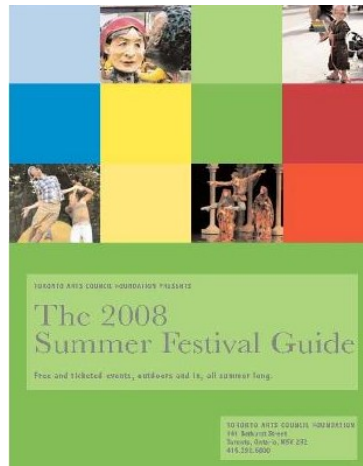
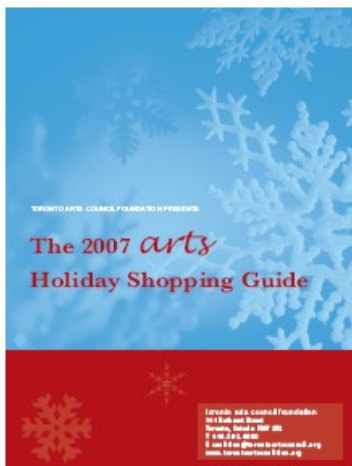
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Each year the Foundation produces an Arts Holiday Shopping Guide and a Summer Festival Guide which are distributed electronically to over 5,000 members of the Toronto Arts Coalition.

For more information on the programs of the Toronto Arts Council Foundation, to access press releases and reports or to make a donation, please visit [www.torontoarts.org](http://www.torontoarts.org) or contact: **Leslie Francombe, Community Investment Manager** at [leslie@torontoartscouncil.org](mailto:leslie@torontoartscouncil.org) or 416.392.6802 x 204.  
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