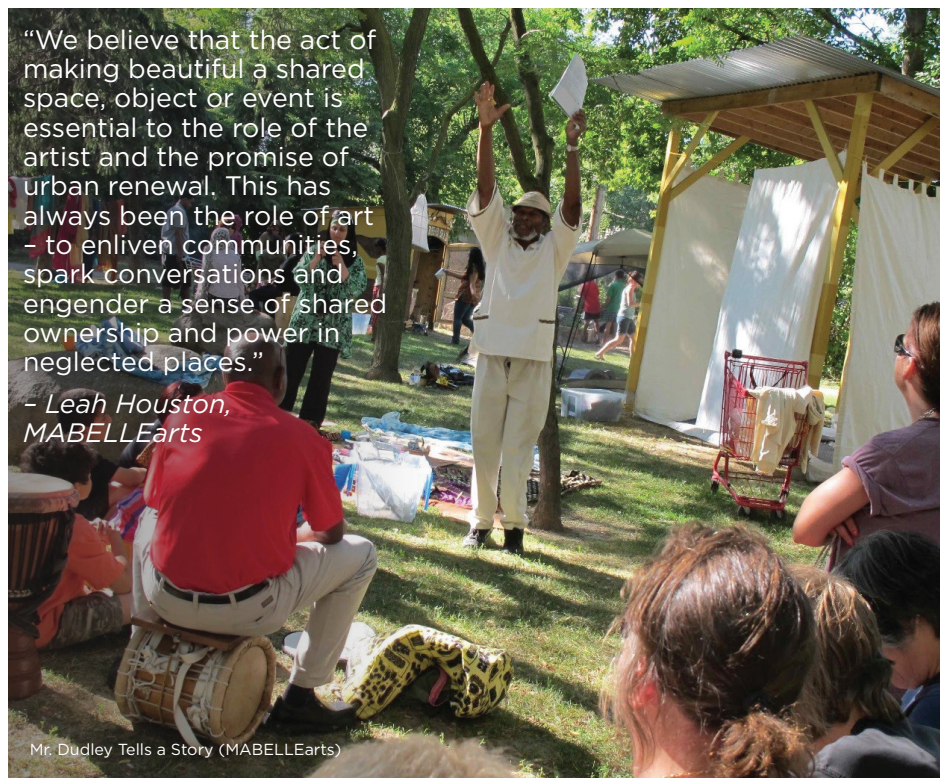


## ARTS IN THE PARKS

Free arts events coming soon to a park near you



“We believe that the act of making beautiful a shared space, object or event is essential to the role of the artist and the promise of urban renewal. This has always been the role of art – to enliven communities, spark conversations and engender a sense of shared ownership and power in neglected places.”

– Leah Houston,  
MABELLEarts

Mr. Dudley Tells a Story (MABELLEarts)

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Arts in the Parks will launch this Spring, and will provide free annual outdoor arts events in parks throughout Toronto – aiming to break down financial, geographic, language and access barriers to the arts for Torontonians and tourists alike. Arts in the Parks is a new initiative of the Toronto Arts Foundation and the Toronto Arts Council, being presented in partnership with Toronto Arts & Culture Services, City Parks, Forestry & Recreation, and Park People.

Arts in the Parks will stimulate community building, increase the enjoyment of local parks and access to arts activities for residents and tourists of all ages. In this first year, up to 50 parks will be

animated across Toronto from Etobicoke to Scarborough and North York to the downtown core, with underserved areas being a priority. Arts in the Parks events will include a variety of artistic disciplines including dance, literary arts, music, theatre, film, visual arts and media arts, community-engaged work, and any combination of the above, by local artists, arts groups and arts organizations.

MABELLEarts is an example of what Arts in the Parks can do for a community. Their story is an inspiration and we congratulate them on their success in transforming the community through the power of the arts.

Driven by its love of people and its fascination with neglected green spaces

### Toronto Arts Stats IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTS

Torontonians see the arts as having a positive influence in the neighbourhoods they live in, their individual lives and the city they call home.

**94%** of Torontonians see a personal benefit of having art in public spaces because:

- 71%** It's often free
- 61%** It introduces me to new art experiences
- 53%** It helps me feel connected to the city I live in

More information about Arts Stats and Arts Facts can be found at [TorontoArtsFoundation.org/Knowledge](http://TorontoArtsFoundation.org/Knowledge)

and forgotten places, MABELLEarts is doing great work in transforming the Mabelle Park community in South Etobicoke by working directly with over 2000 Mabelle residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds through ongoing arts projects and events. By working together to make positive changes in the Mabelle Park neighbourhood, residents begin to see their own lives, stories, hopes and dreams reflected in their surroundings – often for the first time. ([mabellearts.ca](http://mabellearts.ca))

If you are passionate about community building and would like to volunteer for Arts in the Parks, please contact Jaclyn Rodrigues at [jaclyn@torontoarts.org](mailto:jaclyn@torontoarts.org).

# Taking Initiative OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS IN ACTION



Mayor John Tory with the 2015 Signature Awards Recipients

## NOMINATIONS OPEN

### Toronto Arts Foundation Celebrates Artistic Excellence

Toronto Arts Foundation Awards honour Toronto's finest professional artists and arts organizations. The Awards are presented to artists, cultural leaders and businesses in recognition of artistic excellence, cultural leadership and contribution to the arts. Thank you so much to the many donors for their kind, thoughtful and important gifts to the Awards.

Nominations for 2016 Toronto Arts Foundation Awards opened in February. Any person may submit a nomination including arts champions, fellow artists, arts managers arts managers, leaders, and board directors. The deadline for nominations is **March 21, 2016**.

This year, nominations will be considered for the following awards:

**ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD** celebrates an individual, collective or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to engaging Toronto's youth through the arts and artistic creation. Supported by Martha Burns, Margaret & Jim Fleck, Sandra & Jim Pitblado, and Arthur Dalfen.

**THE TORONTO ARTS AND BUSINESS AWARD** celebrates a local business that has sponsored the arts for the first time and made an important contribution to the arts in Toronto through innovative, transformative and entrepreneurial partnerships. Supported by Toronto Star and Business for the Arts.

**WILLIAM KILBOURN AWARD FOR THE CELEBRATION OF TORONTO'S CULTURAL LIFE** will be presented to an individual performer, teacher, administrator or creator in any arts discipline, including architecture and design, whose work is a celebration of life through the arts in Toronto. This is the final year of this award. Supported by a group of donors in memory of William Kilbourn.

**EMERGING ARTIST AWARD** celebrates the accomplishments and future potential of an emerging Toronto artist working in any discipline. Supported by Susan Crocker & John Hunkin and the Bulmash-Siegel Fund.

**THE ROY THOMSON HALL AWARD OF RECOGNITION** will be presented to an individual, ensemble or organization to recognize creative, performing, administrative, volunteer or philanthropic contributions to Toronto's musical life. Established by the Volunteer Committee of Roy Thomson Hall.

The above five awards will be announced at the Mayor's Arts Award Luncheon on May 26, 2016 at the Arcadian Court.

**THE EMERGING JAZZ ARTIST AWARD** furthers the career of an outstanding emerging jazz artist and is intended to support the pre-production, production and/or recording of original music composed by the recipient. Supported by Cheryl & Manuel Buchwald.

The Emerging Jazz Artist Award will be presented at the TD Downtown Jazz Festival this Summer.

For more information about our awards, please visit [TorontoArtsFoundation.org/Awards](http://TorontoArtsFoundation.org/Awards)



East End Arts continues to shine a spotlight on the artists and art organizations in the east end. The calendar of events on the East End Arts website is a growing resource for the local community, greater Toronto residents, and visitors looking to find out what is happening in the east end.

“Let’s Talk Space” is an open discussion hosted by East End Arts in which interested artists, venue owners and community groups have expressed specific space needs of artists living and working in the east end, as well as shared information about existing and potential venues for use by arts and cultural groups. Notes from this ongoing conversation can be found on our website at [EastEndArts.ca](http://EastEndArts.ca).

East End Arts is looking forward to the second year of coordinating community activation activities at Dawes Crossing. The site features a unique art installation which incorporates wind and solar elements, generating power and modest income to fund several community activities throughout 2016.

The summer will see East End Arts participating and partnering with local community arts groups and annual events in the city, such as Luminato and 100 in 1 Day Toronto, as well as presenting professional development activities and grant information sessions.

East End Arts will be presenting Art of the Danforth in the Summer of 2016, which is an experimental arts festival that will see artists and curatorial teams



take on the theme “Neighbourhood Tectonics”.

Stay tuned for more. Visit [EastEndArts.ca](http://EastEndArts.ca).

## CREATING A NETWORK OF CHAMPIONS

by **Jini Stolk,**  
Creative Trust Research Fellow

It was exciting to be part of the first advisory meeting of the Toronto Arts Foundation’s new Creative Champions Network. Even more exciting was the enthusiasm for bringing arts board members together to learn and connect, and the great new ideas that were generated.

The Network’s goal, under the Honorary Chairmanship of John D. McKellar, is to develop the engagement and impact of Toronto’s more than 1,200 arts board members – providing them with resources and opportunities to learn about the expectations and practice of good governance; share experiences and learn from each other; understand the context, trends and outside forces impacting their work; and become even more powerful champions of the arts.

Certainly, the response to the first Get on Board workshops on the Art of Good Governance: Getting the Basics Right was clear: board members are eager to learn how to contribute as fully as possible to the health and success of the arts organizations on whose boards they serve.

The idea of creating a network of board members is a first, not only in the arts, but in the non-profit sector. We believe it can have a powerful impact on the artistic growth and organizational development of individual organizations – and on the arts community as a whole.

If you or members of your board want to get involved and receive the Creative Champions monthly mailing, with helpful resources and information on upcoming workshops and events, drop a note to Michelle Yeung at the Toronto Arts Foundation by email [michelle@torontoarts.org](mailto:michelle@torontoarts.org).

## Neighbourhood Arts Network MAKING A LIVING. MAKING ART.

Neighbourhood Arts Network’s *Making a Living. Making Art.* is a professional development series for artists, youth and arts organizations focused on celebrating the ways in which Toronto’s vibrant arts communities make a living, making art.

This in-depth peer-to-peer learning experience highlights local Toronto artists and neighbourhoods coming together to discuss specific themes geared towards promoting healthy and sustainable careers in the arts. Topics range from: How to Maintain a Positive Work-Art-Life Balance; The Art of Sponsorship; and Arts & Equity, to name a few.

*Making a Living. Making Art.* is a unique collaboration of organizations and artists dedicated to creating enriched experiences for artists and arts organizations to help support the work

that they do best. By supporting the people who enrich Toronto through art and community engaged work, we in turn promote the transformation of Toronto into a more vibrant, beautiful and liveable city.

We will be kicking off 2016 with Creative Potluck - Awakening: A Collection of Creative Stories – on March 14 at YYZ Artists’ Outlet. The event will feature a facilitated networking session and presentations by multi-disciplinary artists. This is a free neighbourhood event, where artists and community residents gather around food to share ideas, best practices and network. Thank you to TD Bank Group, VIBE Arts, YYZ Artists’ Outlet and other partners for the support.

For more information please visit: [NeighbourhoodArtsNetwork.org](http://NeighbourhoodArtsNetwork.org).



2015 Creative Potluck at Lakeshore Arts



## Artist Spotlight JUSTIN GRAY Creator of the bass veena

We caught up with Justin Gray, 2015 Emerging Jazz Artist Award Winner, to find out how he is doing since receiving the award.

**TAF:** How did winning the Emerging Jazz Artist Award help your career?

**JG:** To be considered for this award, among my fellow nominees and the talented community of young jazz artists in Toronto, was truly an honour. Receiving the award continues to be helpful to my career, as it has provided me with a new platform to share my music with a wider range of listeners in Toronto. This generous support, provided by the Toronto Arts Foundation and Cheryl and Manuel Buchwald, has also helped me to pursue recording a new album, which is going to create further opportunities for my career.

**TAF:** Why do you think the Emerging Jazz Artist Award is important?

**JG:** Jazz music is a truly vast art form that simultaneously embraces a deep rooted tradition and limitless possibilities. The artistic path of a jazz musician is therefore a lifelong journey, and one that can often take immense time and effort

before it begins to blossom. For me, this award is important for two main reasons. The first is that it acknowledges younger jazz artists like myself, who in so many ways are just beginning our journey, and provides inspiration to continue going deeper into our music. The second reason that this award is integral for our community, in that it helps to draw attention to the next generation of musicians pursuing this art form.

**TAF:** What's next for you? Are there any exciting new projects you're working on?

**JG:** I am happy to share that receiving this award inspired me to pursue recording a new album this year. The album will be released in the fall of 2016. It will feature original music written for my instrument (bass veena), and a collection of inspiring jazz and world music artists from around the world.

Justin and his ensemble Synthesis, an Indo-Jazz ensemble, explores a unique and captivating combination of creative jazz and Indian classical music. Visit his website for upcoming concerts.

[www.justin-gray.com](http://www.justin-gray.com)

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Toronto Arts Foundation would like to thank all our wonderful Board Members and volunteers for their support and countless hours of service to our organization. We appreciate all that you do!

For more information and to make a donation to the Toronto Arts Foundation, please contact:  
Michelle Yeung | x214 | [Michelle@TorontoArts.org](mailto:Michelle@TorontoArts.org)  
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Our donors are pacesetters for Creative City: Block by Block. Thank you for your generous annual donations, for believing in our initiatives and the transformative social and economic benefits of the arts. Toronto Arts Foundation is very grateful for your generosity and support.

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Recognition as of February 26, 2016. If you would like to change your recognition, please contact Michelle Yeung, x214 or [michelle@torontoarts.org](mailto:michelle@torontoarts.org).