

# City Arts

A creative catalyst for building community through the arts in Toronto

Toronto Cultural Services, Arts Services



*Photo by Katherine Fleitas. The Hutchcraft family performed a theatrical piece as part of their work with Jumblies Theatre's Family Suite program in 2010. The family worked with Jumblies artists to write a script, create puppets and build sets. Their creation featured the entire family and was performed at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre to an audience of 50 people. The Hutchcrafts continue to participate in Jumblies' residency in southeast Scarborough.*



*From left: Modern Batik Art Workshop that teaches youth new techniques in Etobicoke; City on the Move performers dancing in a TTC station; and members of The People Project posing with the vibrant mural they created.*

Community art brings people together, engaging artists, children, youth and seniors in arts programs and activities that nurture a sense of belonging and community pride while building skills that create new opportunities.

Community arts programs in Toronto are innovative and diverse, including: after-school programs, community theatre, music and dance performances, festivals, animation, storytelling, poetry, spoken word, media art, outdoor art creation and installation, mentorships and many other programs in creative industries and diverse art forms.

Arts Services, Toronto Cultural Services seeks to enrich

community arts programming through partnerships that promote opportunities for artistic expression, arts education, employment in the arts and cultural industries, audience development and by encouraging access to the arts for all through community arts development initiatives.

In addition, the City-owned cultural facilities operated by Arts Services serve as dynamic hubs that connect everyday activities of Torontonians with the cultural and artistic programming of the sites, community and artistic partners.

Arts Services' vision is to help create innovative, accessible and liveable communities engaged through the arts with opportunity and prosperity for all.

# Creating Opportunities



From left: **Modern Batik Art Workshop:** Lakeshore Assembly Hall hosted a series of batik workshops, with youth training other youth in the art form. **Creative Apprentices:** Photographer Michael Awad with four apprentices (Gabriella, Mapela, Hawa and Julia) that he mentored for several months. These apprentices previously took part in Arts Services' **Our City Our Stories** photography workshops. The mentorship culminated in an exhibition of large-format photo collages by Michael and the youth at Brookfield Place during **Celebrate 27 Arts Fest** (See next image: M a p e l a ' s collage). The works then traveled to the Greater Toronto Airport Authority for exhibit. **Bendale Mural:** Lead artist Rob Matejka (far right) with youth artists who apprenticed with Rob on the design and creation of a mural.

***M**odern Batik and me – My experience learning and teaching Modern Batik Art has been life changing. It has helped me to express my feelings through art. Working with youth during the summer has helped me improve my communication and presentation skills. It is fun when you are sharing your passion. It stops being work and has boosted my sense of self, because for once I'm making a difference with not my words but my art. The Modern Batik Art Workshop has opened doors into my soul that will impact the world around me. - Participant in **Modern Batik Art Workshop***

# Supporting Innovation



From left: **The Bridging Project** - Dancers at the SUBTEXT Festival, under the Lawrence Avenue bridge in the Kingston-Galloway/Orton Park community as part of a two-day multi-arts, community and green festival.

**Voices of Bendale:** Councillor Michael Thompson and Bendale Technical Institute student, Cody Reynolds at the launch of the cookbook featuring photography and recipes from students and teachers of Bendale.

**Jumblies' Residency at Cedar Ridge** - Paper nesting figures fill the gallery at Cedar Ridge as part of Jumblies' arts residency. Nesting figures were created by hundreds of community members in response to the question: "Who lives here?"

**Celebrate 27 Arts Fest:** Laurie-Shawn Borzovoy, Natalyn Tremblay, Norman Alconcel and Che Kothari were recognized for their contributions to the arts and cultural life of their communities.



*Click It - a partnership photography program in Scarborough Village with TAVIS. Officer Cally and Sama take photos.*

# Building Prosperity

*The Pitch Contest allowed us to clearly identify the potential of our business - for the things we do in the community and for something for people to be self-sustained by. We took that opportunity and created more opportunities. It created a rolling effect and rolled to another level...and we're still rolling.*

- Mike, Co-founder of Network Integrating Street Entertainment (N.I.S.E.), and participant in **Live Arts Inc.**

**Live Arts Inc.** is an innovative cultural incubator for artists in the city's underserved neighbourhoods and populations. The goal is to nurture and develop emerging artists and young creative entrepreneurs who demonstrate talent for building a successful career in the arts and culture sector and cultural industries by providing access and opportunities to small business development. The **Live Arts Inc.** program also supports the **Pitch Contest** (in partnership with ArtReach and Manifesto Festival of Community and Culture), an alternative way for young artists to receive financial support and professional feedback about their projects. Also supported are 12 annual workshops that help young artists build skills in grant writing, event planning, civic engagement, non-profit board of directors, and more.



From top: The People Project (**Live Arts Inc.** participant) mural; **Live Arts Inc.** participant, N.I.S.E.; Memo at the **Pitch Contest**. Photo credit (N.I.S.E. & Memo): Kunal Chakravorty.



# Advancing Access

*During my past two weeks at Expressions, I have had an unforgettable experience. I have never been to summer camp before and Expressions, an incredible arts camp has made me feel welcomed. Having been to the camp, I am sure that I will keep the artistic skills I've learned with me. I had never expected that I'd be eager to wake up early every morning, but Expressions made it so. All the instructors at the camp are truly wonderful and know exactly what to do when it comes to art.*

- **Precious Gems Project** participant at **Expressions**

*First and foremost, I would like to say thank you for giving me the wonderful opportunity. Being one of many youth from the Jane & Finch community, companies and agencies do not take the time to notice our skills. The Props, Sets and Costumes program has helped me to become better in touch with visual aspects of what I would like to become in the not too distant future - an interior designer. So far, I have learned more than expected and for that, it is much appreciated. Again, I would like to say thank you for this program and the wonderful staff.*

- Participant from **Sets, Props and Costumes**, partnership with Downsview Park Arts Alliance



From top: **Lakeshore Assembly Hall's** Tibetan Art Show; **Cedar Ridge Creative Centre's** Expressions summer art camp hosts up to 15 Precious Gems Project youth annually; Lakeshore Assembly Hall features **Swimming for Shore** performed by Humber College students during **Celebrate 27 Arts Fest**; **Celebrate 27 Arts Fest** project to accompany an exhibit at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre - Nigel Martin a youth arts apprentice learning to silk screen in Yasmine Louis' studio.



ESL students take an educational arts program at The Market Gallery.



**“Great things are not done by impulse but by a series of small things brought together...”**

- Vincent Van Gogh

Arts Services would like to extend a thank you to all of the partners that collaborate with us to make great things happen in the many communities across Toronto, in support of economic and social inclusion for all.

Action for Neighbourhood Change

Amazing Place

Amnesty International

Arts for Children and Youth

Art City Toronto

Arts Etobicoke

ArtReach

Bell Canada

Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough

Boys and Girls Club of Jane Finch

Break it Down Dance Initiatives

Canon Canada

Cedar Ridge Studio Gallery

Centennial College

Chess and Math Association

Children’s Peace Theatre

Clean and Beautiful City

Contact Photography Festival

CRUE TV

Dance Collection Danse

Don Vallery Art Club

Dorset Park Youth Council

Downsview Park

Downsview Parks Arts Alliance

East Scarborough Storefront

Evergreen

High Top

Humber School of Creative and Performing Arts

Humber Theatre

Italian Chamber of Commerce of Ontario

Joy Apparel

Just BGRAPHIC

JVS Toronto

Jumblies Theatre

Lakeshore Arts

Live Green Toronto

Manifesto Community Projects

Medallion Corporation

Modern Batik Art

Mural Routes

National Film Board of Canada

Neighbourhood Arts Network

Oakwood Village Arts Festival

Ontario Jewish Archives

Parks Forestry and Recreation

Park People

Planet in Focus

Precious Gems Project

Pro Action Kids and Cops

Scarborough Arts

Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities

Scarborough Village Neighbourhood Association

Scarborough Village Youth Council

Scantex

Second Base Youth Shelter

Shoot with This

Social-Ergonomics People

SPOT

TAVIS

Taibu

The Executive Minds

Toronto and Region Conservation

Toronto Catholic District School Board

Toronto Community Housing Corporation

Toronto District School Board

Toronto Fire Services

Toronto Public Library

Toronto Police Services

Toronto Zoo

Transportation Services

Tropicana

Trillium Foundation

U for Change

UNITY

United Way

Urban Arts Community Arts

Council

York University Archives

Youth Link

106 York



*From top: Councillor Michael Thompson and Earla Alexander, Community Cultural Champion at the C27 Arts Fest launch; Gadfly performing at C27 Arts Fest; Tanika Charles and The Wonderfals at C27 ArtsFest; Robert Longo photos as part of a CONTACT/Arts Services collaboration at Metro Hall.*