



# StreetARToronto Celebrates Front Line Heroes



## StreetARToronto

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We would like begin by acknowledging that this part of Turtle Island - the land on which we now stand - is the traditional territory of many First Nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishnabeg, Chippewa, Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples.

The area we now call the city of Toronto is covered by both Treaty 13 between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaty between the Crown and multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa First Nations. This land is now home to many diverse First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples who walk gently on this earth in a good way. We thank them for welcoming us to gather here.

We also acknowledge that they offered assistance to the first non-Indigenous travelers to this territory and willingly and freely shared their knowledge for survival in a land where the climate was harsh at times, and the terrain, the animals, and the plants were not familiar to them and could either offer them safety and nourishment or danger, sickness, harm and possibly death.

Based on these acknowledgements and understandings we seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based on honour, deep trust and respect and one that we will demonstrate by our actions as well as our words.



Artist - Quentin Commanda (Que Rock)  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



Artists - Soller, Flips & Kreecha  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas

## Welcome to StreetARToronto Celebrates Front Line Heroes

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I am pleased to welcome you to the StreetARToronto Front Line Heroes Project, which showcases yet again that Toronto is home to some of the best street, mural and graffiti artists and art in the world.

This new series of artworks features street, mural and graffiti art that celebrates Toronto front line service providers including health care workers, volunteers and other heroes responding to the global coronavirus pandemic. Titled "Celebrating Front Line Heroes" the works represent a diversity of essential workers of all ages, genders, backgrounds and professions from mail carriers and grocery store employees to teachers and sanitation workers, as well as doctors, nurses, and first responders, all painted by an equally diverse group of artists.

While this series of artworks illustrates a lot of great street art there is also another story here, a unique Toronto story. In 2011, representatives of Toronto's municipal government, the street and graffiti artist community, arts organizations, academia, police, business and business districts in Toronto brought their diverse voices and ideas together to develop a community strategy on graffiti issues. This highly successful partnership was the beginning of the collaborative spirit that synthesized Toronto's unique embrace of graffiti and street art culture and recognized the potential opportunities for artists and local neighbourhoods to work together, ultimately establishing a shared vision of what Toronto's streets could be.

Our streets need to be safe and functional and StreetARToronto has shown that they can also be beautiful and inspiring, reinforcing our sense of place and our image of ourselves.

Take this booklet on a self-guided tour to explore Toronto at your own pace, and to reflect on and celebrate with us the heroes who have helped us through the global coronavirus pandemic.

Barbara Gray,  
General Manager  
Transportation Services, City of Toronto August 2020

Artist - Jesse Pachó (aka Phade)  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



## About StreetARToronto

# StreetARToronto

## Background

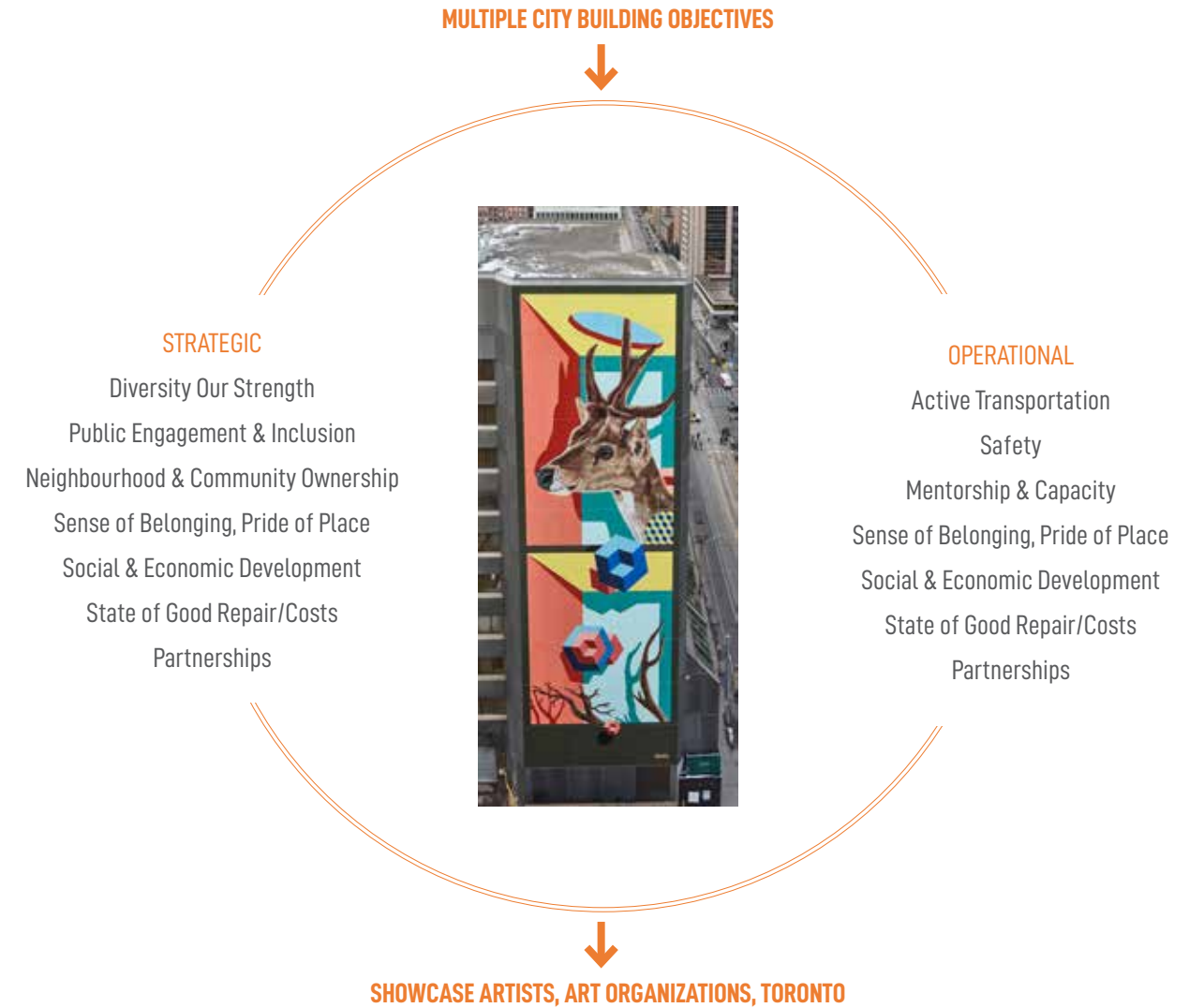
### VISION

StART is dedicated to developing street art and murals as a place-making tool that demonstrates the positive and powerful impacts of diversity and inclusion, fosters community engagement and civic pride; adds colour and vitality to neighbourhoods; encourages active transportation; showcases the talent and creativity of artists, arts organizations and the City of Toronto; contributes to skills development and reduces graffiti vandalism through continued collaboration with public, private and not for-profit stakeholders.

### ORIGINS

StreetARToronto (StART) is a suite of innovative programs designed specifically for streets and public spaces. An initiative of the Transportation Services Division, StART programs have been developed to achieve multiple strategic objectives. Street art installations make our streets more vibrant, inviting and safe, encourage active transportation (walking and cycling), showcase local artists, mentor emerging talent, help maintain infrastructure in a state-of-good-repair and create opportunities for positive engagement among residents, business owners and operators, artists, and arts organizations.

StreetARToronto (StART) has its origins in the Graffiti Management Plan adopted by Council in 2011, which set out four key action areas: deter graffiti vandalism, support victims of graffiti vandalism, support street art and artists, and provide a central point of contact with expertise in all graffiti and street art related matters. Developed to address this mandate, StART is largely an application-based process that responds to Toronto's diverse communities and wide range of local conditions in a timely manner on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Since its inception, StART has evolved to a suite of programs focused on advancing Council's Strategic Goals and achieving Divisional objectives.



Mural by Artist bird0

## Impact

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To date, StART has developed a suite of 8 different programs and produced over 1,000+ street art works throughout the city. The diversity of artists, artistic styles and themes deliberately reflect the diversity of Toronto, including many large-scale murals by Indigenous artists.

The suite of programs ranges from small scale traffic signal controller cabinets to 20+ storey buildings. The programs also provide artists with a skills and portfolio development ladder through an ongoing series of workshops and training such as working at heights, community engagement and artist mental health. These training opportunities combined with StART's online platforms, creative events, meet ups and activities have helped Toronto artists to establish their careers and successfully compete for national and international commissions.

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StART murals have become local focal points, symbols of community pride, and inspiring reminders of the cooperation and dedication that made their creation possible. Toronto is now recognized as home to some of the best mural, street and graffiti artists and art in the world.

In addition to local, regional, national and international media attention, the City of Toronto Graffiti Management Plan and StreetARToronto Program received a national award for Excellence in Municipal Government from the Institute of Public Administration (IPAC) and Deloitte for its exemplary approach to creativity and inclusion. This prestigious public-private sector award recognizes organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership by taking bold steps to improve Canada through advancements in public administration and management.

## Community Pride

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In these and countless other ways, StART has also challenged citizens to engage in a conversation about the impact and importance of art in the public realm. Street art and artists bring neighbours together through artistic engagement and give voice to community members including many who too often go unheard. It is also a catalyst for other community improvements such as neighbourhood clean-ups, community gardening, and community watch initiatives. Street artworks become local focal points, gathering places and symbols of community pride. Street art can instill an instant sense of belonging for residents and visitors, and has become a celebrated feature of Toronto's streetscape.

The designs are often connected to themes of diversity and inclusion; have engendered widespread community support; and, by transforming unsightly vandalized walls into works of art, have improved public safety by attracting more eyes to the streets.

In the exhibit, we invite you to explore the transformative power of murals and their meaningful impact on individuals, communities and the city as a whole.



Left: Alexa Hatanaka, Patrick Thompson and Sean Martindale, Queen Street West and Callender Street  
Right: birdO and Toronto Community Housing, Mornelle Court



# A Suite of Programs

In a city as large as Toronto with its diverse communities and wide range of local conditions it was clear that a one size fits all approach would not be effective. To contribute to achieving the multiple objectives of Toronto Council, a suite of StreetARToronto programs has been developed to respond to local issues and circumstances providing a career ladder for artists.

The StART Programs are:

1. StART Outside the Box Program
2. StART Laneways of Toronto
3. StART Concrete Barrier Program
4. StART Support Program
5. StART Community Program
6. StART Partnership Program
7. StART Infrastructure Program
8. StART Monumental Program

Adjacent Image Credits:

Outside the Box Program: Yasaman Mehrsa, Ellesmere Road & Bellamy Road North

Laneways of Toronto: Lead artist Pascal Paquette and mentor to AGO youth, Croft Laneway

Concrete Barrier Program: Flips BSC, Lake Shore Cycle Track

Support Program: J BALL, 50 College Street

Community Program: Talie Shalmon, Jean Sibelius Park

Partnership Program: Lead artist Odinamaad with Chief Lady Bird and Dave Monday Oguorie, with Traditional Wisdom Keeper, Philip Cote and the Riverside BIA. 650 Queen St East

Infrastructure Program: Nick Sweetman, Bathurst Street and Wilson Street

Monumental Program: bird0, 1 St. Clair Avenue East



## Building the Pipeline, Engagement & Education

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Speakers Series  
& Network  
Meetings



Working at  
Heights  
Training



Community  
Engagement  
Workshops



Showcases,  
Social Media &  
Internet



Mental  
Health  
Workshops



Documentation  
& Promotion  
Workshops

## Mentorship & Legacy

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StreetARToronto takes a holistic approach to diversity and inclusion to support local talent, local businesses, photographers, videographers, community artist facilitators and diverse artists and suppliers. StART's legacy includes strengthening a sense of belonging and pride of place and establishing a pathway to showcase and develop an ongoing stream of creative talent. StreetARToronto supports the training, mentorship and career development of artists, art collectives and small non-profit organizations to bring murals to their communities.

Mentorship is integral to the success and legacy of the StreetARToronto Program. Established artists who have worked on StART projects mentor emerging mural artists throughout different stages of their careers. In addition to enhancing painting skills and techniques, StART also works with artists who are looking to advance their skills in managing, coordinating and curating street art projects.

If you are interested in working with StreetARToronto please contact us through our website at [www.toronto.ca/streetart](http://www.toronto.ca/streetart) or email us at [streetart@toronto.ca](mailto:streetart@toronto.ca).

Toronto features a vibrant street art community and we encourage you to share in this celebration by taking the time to visit the murals you see and read about in this self-guided tour book.

StART acknowledges and thanks all artists and community arts organizations who have brought extraordinary artwork and talent to Toronto's streets and diverse communities making them more vibrant, safe and welcoming. We hope you enjoy the Front Line Heroes artworks.

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1000+  
Artists

60+  
Arts  
Organizations

9  
City Divisions

6  
City  
Corporations

Metrolinx, MTO,  
CPR, CNR

Civic Hall  
Toronto

Many Community,  
Business, and  
Residents  
Organizations

Artist - Natalie Very B  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



# StreetARToronto Front Line Heroes Art Project



Artist - Elicser  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



The **StreetARToronto Front Line Heroes Art Project** features a new series of street, mural and graffiti art that celebrates Toronto front line service providers including health care workers, volunteers and other heroes responding to the global coronavirus pandemic.

Titled "Celebrating Front Line Heroes" the works represent a diversity of essential workers of all ages, genders, backgrounds and professions from mail carriers and grocery store employees to teachers and sanitation workers, as well as doctors, nurses, and first responders, and painted by an equally diverse group of artists.

Take this booklet on a self-guided tour to explore Toronto at your own pace, and reflect on and celebrate with us the heroes who have helped us through the global coronavirus pandemic.

## BAREKET KEZWER

1928 Davenport Road

Bareket is a Toronto based visual artist, community organizer, muralist, curator, and eternal optimist whose work is motivated by a desire to spread joy, nurture present minded living, cultivate gratitude, and foster new social interactions from a place of love and empathy. Using aerosol and acrylic paint, she works with bright colours and bold patterns to captivate people's attention and fill them with delight and hope. She is passionate about creating art that aesthetically and psychologically brightens streets and helps build a community around positive living. In 2017, she founded Womxn Paint, an annual street art jam that has produced 44 murals celebrating the strength and diversity of womxn.

*"My mural honours the key role that everyone plays during the pandemic—including all front line heroes who are risking their safety to serve." This multilingual design linguistically celebrates the diversity that is integral to Toronto's strength."*

Artist - Bereket Kezwer  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



## ALEXANDAR BACON

20 Maud Street

"Working with StART and seeing the positive impact it has on neighbourhoods, people and the development of artists is inspiring and makes me proud to be a part of it." Internationally renowned Canadian graffiti artist Alexandar Bacon began painting in the 90's as a teenager. He is best known for his colourful works lining the alleys and streets of Toronto. He describes the art form as being passed down from one generation to the next. His work has evolved to deconstructing traditional graffiti spray paint techniques to create an abstract graffiti style while maintaining letter form. His use of a mature colour palette and mixing of realism with stylized graffiti fonts gives his work a unique look with smooth transitions and texture. Most recently Bacon has been doing large scale murals and canvas work while maintaining the disciplines of graffiti such as mentorship. His work can be seen all over Toronto.

*This mural features a hand in a blue medical glove holding a flower. The flower is a representation of how delicate life is and the helping hand glove is a symbol of our diversity in the sense that we are all in this together regardless of race, gender or nationality. The simplicity of the design makes the message easy for people to grasp and shows the strength and resilience of people and that at the end of the day we are here to help each other. What works well with this design is that it covers a full spectrum of all the frontline workers. I did a small oil painting to show to develop the design concept. The wall is located on the North wing of 20 Maud Street across the street from a park in a high density Neighborhood of Queen and Bathurst with excellent visibility.*

Artist - Alexandar Bacon  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



## ELICSER

1230 Dundas Street West

Elicser Elliott explores narrative structures, new surfaces, and new sensations, through the lens of more than a decade spent in the global aerosol art community. Featuring a distinctive character based practice, Elicser's work is highly visible in major cities from Toronto to South America to South Africa. His work was recently featured at the Institute for Contemporary Culture at the Royal Ontario Museum.

The graffiti art debate rages in a city where the creative talent born from the alleys and walls of the urban infrastructure is flourishing. Known for his intuitive ability to capture the essence of a subject, Elicser Elliott leads the charge in the character-based graffiti art movement in Toronto.

*Elicser's Front Line Heroes mural features a play on Rosie the Riveter, a cultural icon of World War II, representing the women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, WE CAN DO IT! In this case, Rosie represents essential workers everywhere going to work to serve their community daily during these uncertain times. Elicser painted this mural over top of a mural he had painted at this site several years ago.*

Artist - Elicser  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



## JARUS

575 Queen Street West

Emmanuel Jarus is a Canadian-born artist and muralist inspired by the visual human experience. His work reimagines how art can exist in public spaces. For the past 8 years, Jarus has been working with communities across Canada and around the globe to produce large-scale portraits and figures among other images on wall surfaces. They can be found within major cities as well as across rural settings. He has had notable international recognition as a contemporary muralist and figurative painter. He studied briefly at the Academy of Realist Art in Toronto but attributes his knowledge of art to various influences including his grandmother, inspiration from graffiti, and resources found on the internet. The narrative Jarus depicts in his approach communicates a story of individual spirit relevant to the metabolism of that particular neighbourhood. His works are a combination of acrylic, latex and aerosol paint.

*The artist encountered this Front Line Hero on a break in the parkette adjacent to the wall. He requested permission to take their photograph and paint their portrait based on the photograph. The resulting mural, striking in its strength and simplicity, is painted over top of a portrait-mural Jarus painted at this site a couple years ago.*

Artist - Jarus  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



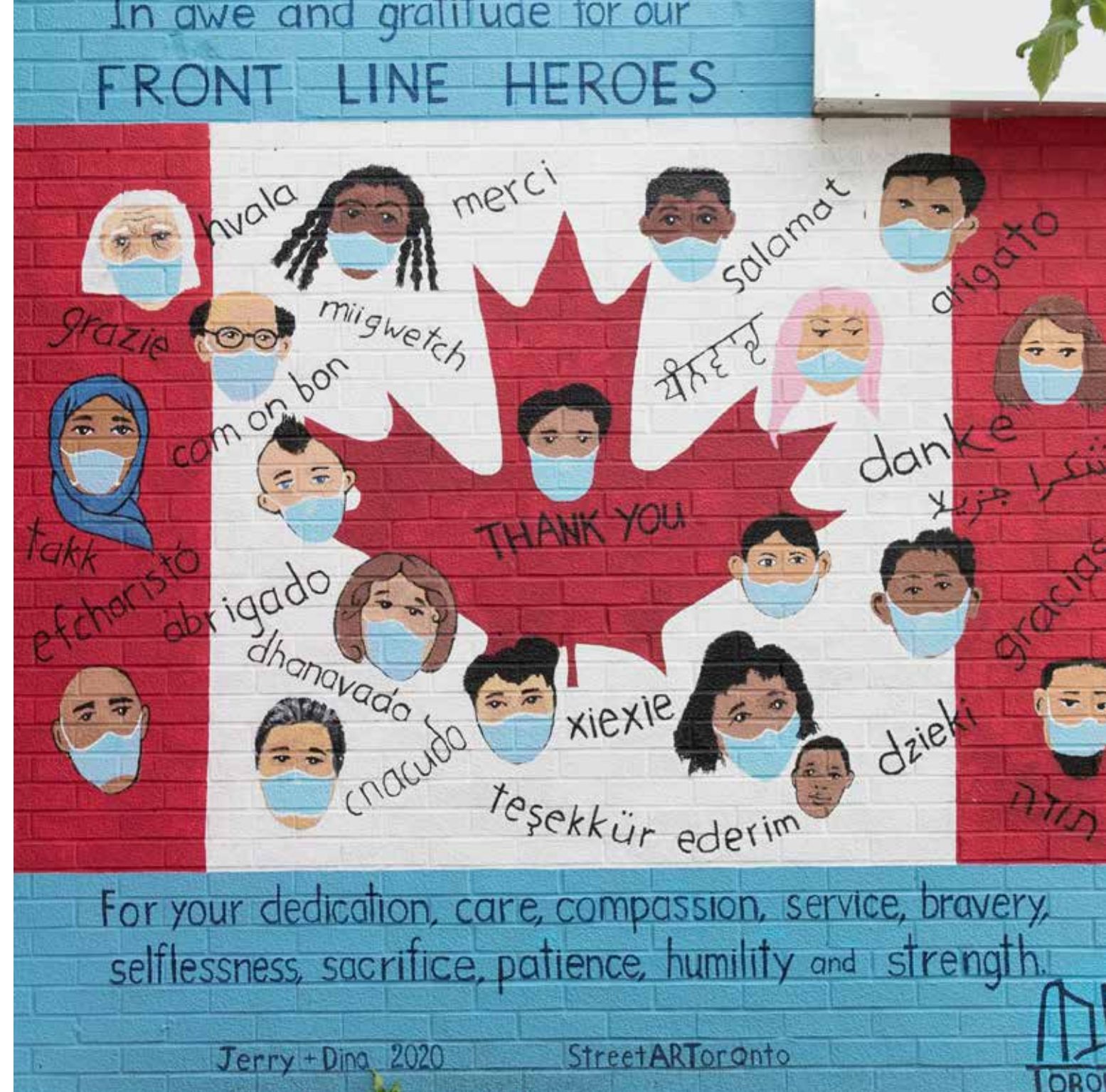
## JERRY SILVERBERG

761 Jane Street

Jerry is a multidisciplinary artist / educator living in Toronto. He studied art at Central Technical Art School and continued his interest in mural and printmaking with workshops through Open Studio. As a visual artist, his art murals can be seen on the streets of Toronto and his canvasses shown in many cafes and galleries throughout Toronto including Sage Café, John B. Aird Gallery, Open Studio, Hugh's Room, Loop Gallery. His work has also been seen in The Globe and Mail, Walrus Magazine, The Toronto Star, Washington Post and New York Times.

*Jerry's concept reflects, in image and text, the thanks that the diverse population of our city has to offer, conjuring the feeling of a collective population grateful for the sacrifice front-line workers have made during throughout this pandemic. Images include nurses, doctors, long term care givers, neighbours who listen and share, grocery workers, people in isolation, the unemployed, those that are afflicted, those that have passed and many more. Each one is worthy of commemorating. Eventually this pandemic will pass and there will be a return to some form of normalcy.*

Artist - Jerry Silverberg  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



## JESSEY PACHO (aka PHADE)

2265 Danforth Avenue

Jessey Pacho (Phade) is a Toronto based professional muralist. With nearly 20 years of experience in his art practice, paralleled with his work in community, arts education and mural making, he brings meaning and a unique perspective to the many walls of Toronto. His clientele ranges from the corporate world to community and everyone in between. Jessey shares his expertise in learning environments with youth nationwide, reaching over 80 000 individuals to date, using Graffiti, as a legitimate art form to do so. A two-time Keynote speaker at the #140 Conference in New York City, Jessey was invited to Italy with Unity Charity for the annual We Free conference, as a mural advisor for the festival.

*Coinciding with his "Heroes" mural series: (Highway of Heroes - 2012) & (Canadian Heroes - 2020/pending), Jessey Pacho partnered with Petro Canada for this submission after the success of their Celebrate Diversity Mural (2019). The partnership with Petro Canada is a perfect fit - with them being a proud Canadian brand and on the front lines as an essential service across Canada. The artwork consists of a rainbow gradient, in layered lettering, naming Frontline and Essential Services across the four societal pillars: Health Care Services, Transport Services, City/Community Service Providers, & The Arts Community. Services and personnel from each community are listed in repetition, to show strength in numbers and a sense of a united community.*

Artist - Jessey Pacho (aka Phade)  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



## NATALIE VERY B

6 Noble Street

Natalie Very B. is an illustrator, muralist, and teacher of Polish-Canadian descent. Having grown up in a country with a strong patriarchal regime and a system of inequality, she finds solace in painting ethereal shapes of female figures that depict women as beautiful, empowered, and strong. As an immigrant artist she often explores the concept of "home" and feminism, and the deep sense of nostalgia that it brings out in her work. Her healing art workshops open people to free artistic expression in a safe environment. Upon gentle guidance, these sessions allow the participants to enjoy the spirit of creativity with a strong focus on self-reflection.

*'Stronger Together' depicts eight distinct groups of frontline heroes, each represented by one character: farmers, librarians, musicians, laboratory staff, telehealth workers, doctors, visual artists and food delivery services; strong, courageous and smiling.*

*The mural is meant to be an artistic expression of lasting gratitude to remind people that we can always find strength in the community even in the toughest of times. More importantly, it will serve in remembrance of the global pandemic. Natalie's hope is that none of us ever forget how crucial frontline workers are to the sustainability of our economy and liveliness of our neighbourhoods.*

Artist - Natalie Very B  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas





## PERU DYER JALEA

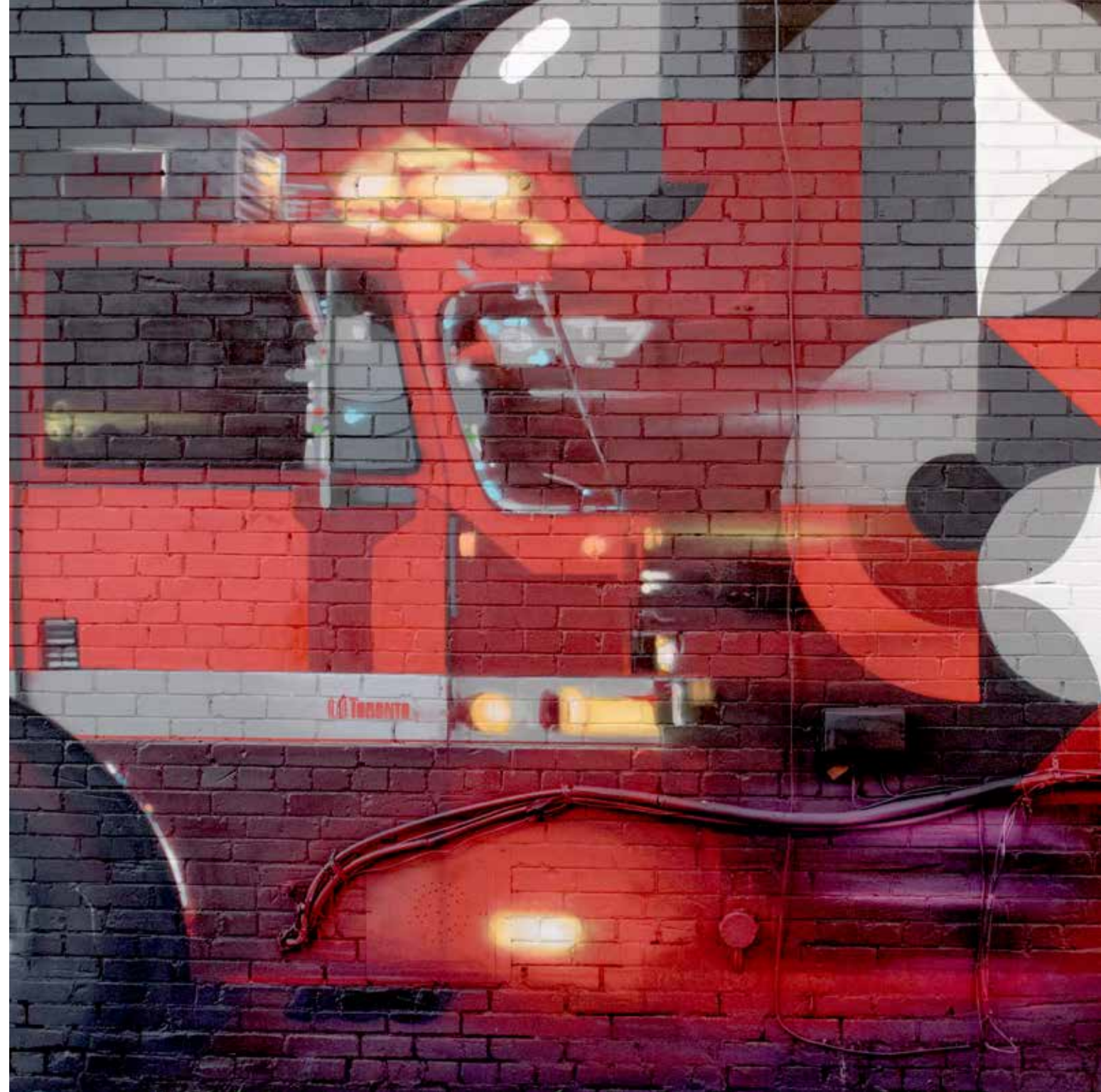
1017 Dufferin Street

A proponent of the 'Graffitiurism' movement and avid traveler who has called many cities 'home', Peru's art explores physical and temporal boundaries to uncover novel ways of experiencing otherwise unremarkable spaces. His style is marked by a puzzle-like use of simple geometric shapes and clean lines scaled-up to fit any space. His use of primary colours are evocative of childhood. Reworking simple and bright graphic elements into complex patterns and meditative murals, Peru's art conjures uplifting feelings.

Through his art, he aims to spread joy and encourage social change in the form of consciousness-shifting works of art – to create works that communicate the necessity of evolving and rising above our differences by understanding the interconnectedness between all living things. He continues exploring these themes in his current home of Toronto where he lives with his beautiful wife and child.

*Peru's work celebrates both the bravery and humanity of fire fighters. These front line workers perform an incredibly taxing job and are a crucial part of a functioning society. "All In Together Now" is featured in Peru's signature abstract lettering style surrounding a central focal abstraction of the fire truck. This particular truck is at a station not far from Peru's home, when during the long days of the pandemic, fire fighters would wave at is young son on family walks and were happy to show him the truck, from a distance, adding delight to an otherwise confusing time for little people.*

Artist - Peru Dyer Jalea  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



## QUENTIN COMMANDA (Que Rock)

546 Richmond Street West (facing East in 'Graffiti Alley' - access via Portland Street)

Que is a Nipissing First Nation born artist. "I started life learning my culture's teachings, approaches and ceremonies through visual healing art forms. Painting, dancing, leatherwork and story telling were taught through traditional Ojibway and Odawa ways. My mentors encouraged me to be creative and to not let anything go to waste with what I share in art. As a traditional Anishnawbe first nations graffiti artist, my work has matured from quick pieces into large street art projects and canvas work. Using my teachings and different methods I focus on unique painting styles and techniques to create smooth transitions of colour, blending abstract form with realism and expressionism."

*Que's mural features 'Thank you' in Graffiti style letters because the wall faces east in 'Graffiti Alley'. "It is a tribute mural and visual healing piece. I have included some of my Anishinaabe teachings about the 6 nations, the 4 directions and multiple layers of the medicine wheel to further showcase connection. This mural has four characters with the medicine wheel of the Anishinaabe people symbolized in each character. These symbols and characters represent all of humanity as well as the animals, plants, insects, fish, birds and humans. Chi Miigwetch to all Front Line Workers.*

Artists - Quentin Commanda (Que Rock), Manitou Nemeen (Spirit Dancing) Nipissing First Nation Anishnawbe/Odawa  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



## SOLLER, FLIPS & KREECHA

254 Spadina Avenue

Rowell Soller is a Filipino-Canadian, multidisciplinary artist born and raised in Scarborough. His practice revolves around traditional painting on canvas, sculpture and murals. He has established a signature style of his own, called 'Ancient Graffitiurism'. Flips is a Toronto based multi-media artist, life enthusiast and visual storyteller. Inspired by the blending of cultural forces in Toronto and his homeland of Bulgaria, he is best known in the streets of Toronto for his signature Swirl Style, which reflects the philosophy of unity through art in the swirling of color and line. Kreecha is an indigenous multidisciplinary artist with over 10 years experience creating across turtle island. Heart centred in hiphop; a rich cultural upbringing breathes through his practice of traditional indigenous arts, realism, calligraphy and letter formations. His works draw on legend and the teachings of his elders.

*Titled 'Art is Essential', this mural depicts a feminine figure painting a rose. Black and white with symbolic elements in red, it represents humanity during the pandemic. The feminine figure (mother Earth) is wearing a face-mask. The piece focuses on promoting the practice of creation (art) as a coping mechanism for the stress and anxiety that most feel during this moment in time. Front line/essential workers are honoured in the body of the figure using graffiti style lettering and tags to spell out gratitude for several groups. Antlers symbolize the growth of mind and link to the universe. Two icons represent peace and love. The rings surrounding the rose feature graffiti artist Flips' signature "Swirl Clusters" (representing community here and now) and the Rowell Soller "Spirit Strokes" (representing the spirits of those who have passed). Script work by Kreecha further expresses gratitude and adds a visual texture that completes the piece.*

Artists - Soller, Flips & Kreecha  
Photographer - Katherine Fleitas



# Front Line Heroes murals by the following Artists will be painted throughout August to complete this Series

## CINDY SCAIFE

1540 Bloor Street West

Born and raised in Toronto, Cindy Scaife has been a full-time professional mural artist for over 28 years. Her mural career includes works for private, commercial and corporate clients, educational institutions and public art projects. One highlight of Cindy's career was working with acclaimed American artist Frank Stella as the Studio Manager for his studios in Toronto, New York and Houston, Texas. During this time the studio created large scale mixed media murals based on Mr. Stella's paper collages. These works were commissioned by galleries and museums from Japan to Germany and included Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre.

*"My 'Front Line Heroes' mural will celebrate a diverse selection of our local heroes, presented in a joyful composition. My concept was inspired in part by the stories that have been shared on the news and on social media. During our city's time of social distancing, families have had to find unique ways to keep their children busy, engaged, happy and healthy. Many examples of creative play have been on display, from expressive rainbow paintings in windows to inventive science experiments with household items. Being playful and imaginative has kept many families as positive and upbeat as possible during these challenging times. These stories inspired me to recall my childhood toys, a favourite of which my Fisher-Price 'Little People' set. These toys allowed my imagination to travel in many different directions to create my very own community and stories. Using a photo-realistic style to paint my mural, I will create my own version of a Toronto "Little People" as a unique "Special Edition Front Line Heroes Set".*

## GOSIA KOMORSKI

1540 Bloor Street West

Gosia is a Polish-Canadian artist with a passion for visual storytelling. Whether designing for a big public wall, or working on a small piece in the studio, Gosia is inspired by ornate symbols and patterns of identity. Through mixing patterns and using bold complimentary colours, she builds a visual language that is inclusive and relatable. Since her first public mural in 2015, Gosia has had the opportunity to paint on numerous traffic boxes, concrete barriers, walls, garage doors and garbage bins for StreetARToronto, Bell Box Murals Project, Womxn Paint, The City of Oshawa and Arts Etobicoke to name a few. Currently exploring a new series, Gosia is visually retelling life stories of inspiring women through patterns of their past, present and future identities.

*Gosia's concept is to paint a large quilt that represents the many different essential workers. Each patch in the quilt symbolizes the diversity of careers that are important for all Toronto residents during the global coronavirus pandemic. From farmers to doctors, to City staff and neighbours, everyone is working together to provide necessary services, needs and comforts to all. Much like this, quilts are a symbol of warmth and care; mismatched patches meticulously sewn together to create a functional and robust entity. The patches that form the quilt also symbolize the strength in Toronto's diversity. "I want to play with the idea that the mural is different up close and from afar. Up close, the patchwork reveals patterns that represent different frontline workers. I'll be focusing on a variety of 6-12 essential heroes within the quilt. From father away, facial profiles will be visible, adding a human element to the piece that is relatable and inclusive.*

## JACQUIE COMRIE

1521 Gerrard Street East

Colour is the universal language of human emotion. A science known to be powerful enough to improve brain function, emotional and mental health. As a multidisciplinary artist and mental health advocate, this is the focus of Jacquie Comrie's practice, using colour as a main tool for social change and global wellness. Whether as large scale mural installations on buildings, structures or canvases, her body of work is a dynamic exploration of colour consciously created with a wellness approach. Her process combines scale, movement, and colour to transform city scapes worldwide while catering to the mental well being of its communities. With the current overwhelming state of the world and mental health issues on the rise as a result, her goal is to open dialogues of mental health and continue creating spaces of mental reset to contribute to improving the lives of all individuals, one wall at a time.

*"We are at the renaissance of a new consciousness, having to redesign our social order, our ways to communicate and interact with one another. This pandemic is our wakeup call to rethink on behaviours that have gotten us here and a time to reflect on new, creative ways to live a more earth conscious life. If anyone ever doubted how connected we are as human beings, this experience is proof. We are ONE. Through this idea of unity, this project aims to create a mural that celebrates individuals for doing our part by staying home. The biggest threat to humanity is our own ignorance, lack of information and selfishness. By staying home, we are choosing to think of others, our families and entire communities. As with all of my work, this mural aims to be powerful, thought-provoking and inspiring, marking this collective human experience while catering to our mental health through the energetic transformative power of colour."*

## JIM BRAVO

165 Main Street

Jim Bravo was born in Ecuador, South America in 1973. He is a graduate of The Ontario College of Art and Design University where he majored in Fine Art and studied monumental & public art. Bravo has been active in the street/public art arena since his 2006 graduation, completing several city-funded murals and an array of community engagement art projects. Through his affiliation with various local arts organizations he has gained vast experience as an arts mentor for at-risk youth initiatives. Bravo is a 4 time award winning painter and muralist and he lives and works in the city of Toronto.

*Jim Bravo's mural spotlights Food Bank Volunteers. A close friend of the artist's volunteers twice weekly at Avenue Road Food bank in Toronto. "Through our communications I have been made aware of the vital role our food banks play and the role the array of people of differing cultural, religious, and financial backgrounds who staff them have been playing throughout this terrible time. The building I will be painting has long housed commercial food markets. It is my hope that this mural will serve as a great compliment and a reminder to the public of the need for compassion in food security matters."*

## KAREN ROBERTS

2701 St. Clair Avenue East

Karen's work depicts life in Toronto – people, events and elements connected to the region. 'I have witnessed many changes and struggles in neighborhoods throughout the city and have contributed to developing community strength through several art projects. "I choose to create art that can be seen and appreciated by the public, free and accessible to anyone – bringing beauty to dingy, neglected areas of town. I enjoy working with communities to engage them in the process of change, establish personal connections and develop a sense of pride in their neighborhood. My artwork also addresses environmental concerns/issues; reminding us that everything has a purpose, even when it is not clear to us, what that is."

*St. Clair O'Connor Long Term Care/Community Centre has been a victim of the global coronavirus pandemic. Karen is painting three concrete pillars at the entranceway, each with frontline workers with arms above their heads, as if holding up the building and protecting residents: a doctor/nurse and/or resident; a food service worker and pharmacist; a resident and a PSW/long-term care worker on the other. Those featured in the mural will be of of varying, non-stereotyped genders and will have a superhero-style crest on their chest or back, or on a cape, to help identify them. Instead of 'S' for superman it will be; 'RN.', 'Dr', 'RNA', 'PSW', 'FS', 'LTC', 'Rx' (pharmacy symbol).*



# Beyond the Wall

## KATHERINE FLEITAS

*Photographer, Front Line Heroes Art Project*

Katherine is a personal, event photographer from Toronto/Hamilton, Ontario. Her distinctive ability to freeze time stems from her documentary approach to capturing life's moments. Katherine's clients vary from the personal to the professional. Whether gathered around the dining room or the board room, she has the experience to capture the events in your life or your organization that matter, from live painting to piano recitals to annual general meetings. [www.peacephoto.com](http://www.peacephoto.com) was created as the peoples' media, to share a preferred world view. Through the diversity of human creation and creativity, [www.peacephoto.com](http://www.peacephoto.com) aims to share joy and unity with the world. Give thanks, Life is a blessing. [peacephoto](http://www.peacephoto.com) Images are available for purchase, please contact: [katherine@peacephoto.com](mailto:katherine@peacephoto.com) or [www.peacephoto.com](http://www.peacephoto.com)

## SHQDEL AND CHE

*Performances, Front Line Heroes Art Project*

Shqdel turns to multiple disciplines to release. As a byproduct, she hopes her pieces console, bring healing and make those who encounter her creations feel a sense of being understood. In her own words, she 'exhales' spoken word poems into songs and creates hand-cut collages.

Che is an artist who writes freedom songs to elicit freedom from internal and external oppression.

On August 15, 2020 Shqdel and Che performed for The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and His Worship Mayor John Tory. This marked Che and Shqdel's second community-performance to activate the mural at 254 Spadina Avenue.

## WINIFRED TAYLOR (WT)

*Designer and Producer, Front Line Heroes Art Project Masks*

Winifred Taylor is a black owned brand that combines the beauty of visual art with quality textiles resulting in wearable art pieces. Each Artist Collection item is inspired by a piece of art. We collaborate with the artists we work with to take their art out of the gallery and into streets and beaches worldwide. [lovewinifredtaylor.com](http://lovewinifredtaylor.com)

## MITCHELL GAVIN ROBERTS

*Videographer, Front Line Heroes Art Project*

From television and feature film productions to web-based, comedy, and corporate video formats – Mitchell has a unique skillset tailored to a variety of needs. Working both in front of and behind the camera, he has experience as a stand-up comedian, variety show host, short film actor, and writer and director for film, sketch and stage. He has created digital content for small businesses, not-for-profit and government initiatives and has experience editing & filming for internet influencers, entertainers and musicians as well. Recent credits include: Brooklyn Doran, Dungeon Dudes & Dave Merheje. Mitchell's Front Line Heroes video will be available on the StreetARToronto YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/2DK3tQP> or visit [mitchellroberts.com](http://mitchellroberts.com)

*Special thanks to property owners who generously offered wall-space to StART Artists for this project; to City of Toronto, Transportation Services Steve Leyland; United Rentals; and to the self described 'Graffiti Art Soccer Mom' at 254 Spadina!*



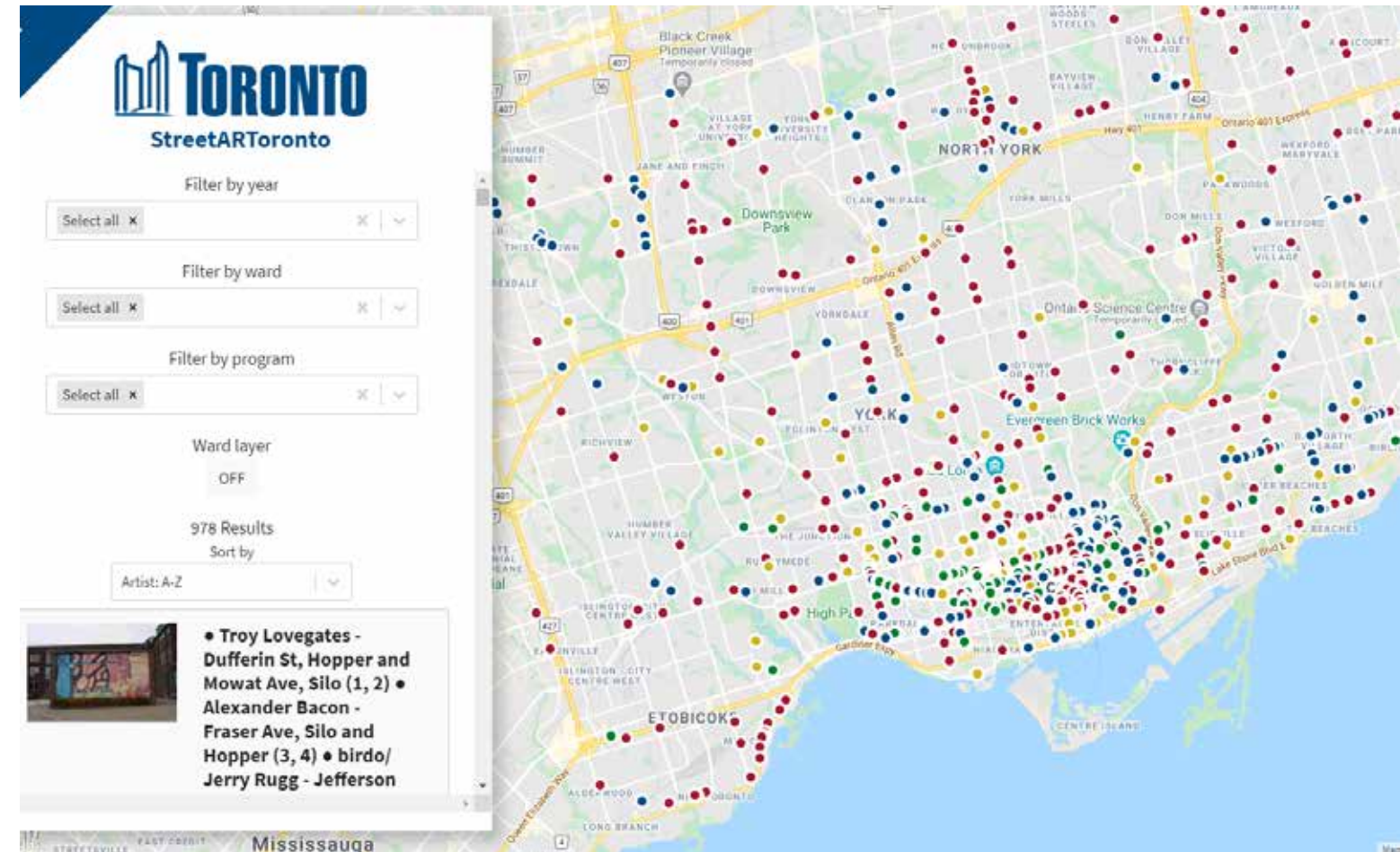
# StreetARToronto - The Map!

## Partnering with Code for Canada and Civic Hall:

In April 2018, after a review of civic innovation models around the world, City Council selected Code for Canada/ Civic Hall, hosted by the Centre for Social Innovation, as the partner organizations to co-create and carry out the delivery of training and innovation related City projects. Code for Canada is a national non-profit that connects government innovators with the tech and design community. The Code for Canada programs such as Civic Hall Toronto enable governments to deliver better digital public services and empower communities to solve civic challenges using technology and design. Civic Hall Toronto is a non-profit program that enables government innovators, entrepreneurs, technologists and residents to share, learn and build solutions together.

StARToronto has worked with Civic Hall Toronto to rapidly create and implement new online application forms as well as an online map of street art murals, as a way to showcase street art in the city and make it more discoverable for residents.

Through Civic Hall Toronto, the StART team was able to connect with members of the local civic tech community to develop StreetARToronto - The Map - using an agile approach. The initial version informed by input from artists and arts organizations, was developed in six months and released in fall 2018. StreetARToronto - The Map, showcasing 1,000+ mural installations in Toronto, is publicly available at [streetart.ca](http://streetart.ca)



## Let's Be In Touch!

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For more information about StreetARToronto (StART) programs,  
events, and special projects please contact us at:



[streetart@toronto.ca](mailto:streetart@toronto.ca)



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