

SEASON REVIEW - 2016 -





“IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT NEXT TO HUNGER AND THIRST, OUR MOST BASIC HUMAN NEED IS FOR STORYTELLING.”

-KHALIL GIBRAN

In 1976 The Esplanade - a planned community - was created with a pioneering vision of diversity. Today it is home to a very diverse population - with Esplanadians of all ages, abilities, household incomes and cultural backgrounds living together. We come from distant horizons, and yet together we live a harmonious and friendly day-to-day life.

However, with such a wide diversity, how do we ensure that intercultural understanding prevails; that economical disparity does not build walls between families; that both people with special needs and seniors are engaged and connected; and that all young people have an opportunity to express their unique voices?

We think that part of the solution is to offer intergenerational programming that is free and accessible by all, along with an inclusive, accepting and welcoming environment where all people can connect, gather and create together. We believe that offering both access to and engagement opportunities in the arts contributes to a more cohesive, united and supportive community.

We initiate and produce arts-based community-engaged projects and events that are taking place in or near David Crombie Park. Our artist-led programming engages all Esplanadians in collaborative creative processes leading to public presentations. Events include outdoor movie nights, live performances (dance, theatre, music), outdoor photo exhibits, murals and more.

Since inception in 2011, Jami has organized over 200 workshops, directly engaged 835 people in creative processes, produced 69 public events, and gathered an audience of more than 45,000.



2016 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



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New Hibret Co-Op
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Food donation: Real Mo-Mo's, Pizza Nova & Cluck Clucks



PATCHWORK VILLAGE – EXHIBIT

In the context of the 40th Anniversary of the site-plan approval of The Esplanade, 200 neighbours celebrated the place they call home with Patchwork Village - a multi-phase project that tells the stories of 40 fellow Esplanadians. Each of these inspiring and moving stories is a component of an ensemble - a vital piece of a patchwork that composes the intangible cultural heritage of our Esplanadian community.

The first phase of Patchwork Village was the creation of an outdoor photo/text exhibit. The artist-led group of 20 participants interviewed and gathered stories recounted by forty selected protagonists from the neighbourhood. Each story was then transcribed and visually interpreted by photographer Charlie Lindsay. The exhibit was unveiled in May as part of the CONTACT Festival of Photography. A project co-produced with CORPUS.





PATCHWORK VILLAGE – LIVE

The second phase of Patchwork Village saw this exhibit turned into live performances for Toronto Nuit Blanche in October, with a series of solos. Under artistic guidance, participants created their solo based on a story that spoke to them, with the strong desire to bring it to life and share it with an audience.

The intimate set up of the performance in an enclosed tent was surrounded in the park by live painting and screening of the 40 interviews which inspired each original portrait

More than 200 people were involved in the making of this project. Thousands enjoyed both the exhibit and live performances. Patchwork Village touched many lives, and even changed a few.

Patchwork Village is the first step of a journey to the heart of our common identity and the richness of our cultural differences.

1000 in attendance

A project co-produced with CORPUS.





PATCHWORK VILLAGE – MULTICULTURAL DAY

On June 27th, The Esplanade community celebrated Canada's Multicultural Day with a panel discussion on the history of the neighbourhood; live music & dancing with african, japanese, brazilian and indian influence; live painting; story-telling and a community art board.

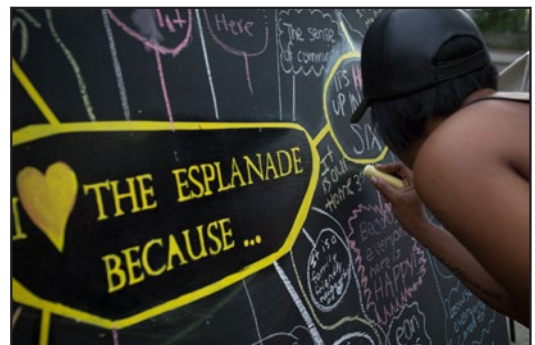
Panel discussion: Bruce Bell, Jerome Markson, Westwind Evening (moderator: Steve Lowden)

Performers: Young Park, Trevor Yearwood, Walter Mclean, Amarpal Singh, Ashima Suri, Kaitlin Torrance, Takako Segawa, Lua Shayenne

Live painters: Kerry Graham, Andrew Patterson, Getachew Fantu
200 in attendance

A project co-produced with CORPUS.

Photos: André Daley-Wiltshire





PATCHWORK VILLAGE – CREDITS

Co-producer: CORPUS

Curator: Isorine Marc

Project coordinator: Zoie Browne

Artistic advisor: David Danzon

Project photo & video documentation: Laura Dittmann

Lead artist – Creative writing: Anne-Marie 'Amani' Woods

Lead artist – Exhibit design: Jacques Fortier

Photographer - Exhibit: Charlie Lindsay

Lead artists - performance creation: Nicola Pantin, Jim Adams, Jordon Veira, Jeremiah Sparks, Robert Graham

Lead artist - live painting: Andrew Patterson

Graphic designer: Gus Morainslie

Authors: Carla Ardito - Faith Sawyers - Gabriele Franke - Gennavive Marshall - Georgia Reynolds - Julien Lui - Kai Miyake-Muyoboke - Kerryn Graham - Vicky Lehouck - Patrick Kinnucane- Pauline Williams - Ribqah Zafar - Ronny Yaron - Sabina Bokarica - Sajid Abid - Scarlett Graham - Shaaron Lewis - Steve Lowden - Victoria Ardito - Vivienne James

An exhibit featuring: Alan Littlewood - Aleina Maragos - Annamaria Sparks - Bashir Munye - Bruce Bell - Catherine Limbertie - Charlene McGeachie - Claude Gillard - Corlette Williams - Dan O'Leary - David Crombie - Dawn Murray - Debbie Andrews - Delano Brown - Erin Roza - Ezat Mossallanejad - Fred Taleb - Glen Murray - Hodan Abdi Mohamed - Jack Diamond - Margot Mercier - Marie-France Cadman - Mary McDonald Eisner - Mike Valenta - Mohamed Urdoh - Mysha Khurram - Nick Spector - Nora Hassaan - Patrick Kwok-Choon - Patrick Zembski - Paulette & Frank Touby - Popz - Riley Belasco - Solomon Muyoboke - Syed Raza Hashim - Toru Miyake - Vivienne James - Wally Simpson - Walter Azzalini - Zénon Nicayenzi

Professional performers: Andy Massingham - Ashima Suri - Caitlin Holland - Ryan G Hinds

Esplanadian performers: Clarke Graham - Darren Marshall - Declan Oliver Santillan - Devonna Munroe - Georgia Reynolds - Gennavive Marshall - Hanna Yusuf - Helena Maragos - Hodan Abdi Mohamed - Inara Ibrahim - Iraj Dastmalchi - Julien Lui - Kai Miyake Muyoboke - Karam Aly - Lula Munye - Leena Yusuf - Nadia Ibrahim - Pauline Williams - Ruth-Marie Williams - Scarlett Graham - Suad Ahmed - Zoe Campbell

Painters: Diana Portokalidis - Rasheeda Forbes-Riley - Ivan Blagojevic - Julian Periquet - Kerryn Graham - Leone McComas - Raecheal Goddard

Production team: Don Brinsmead - Hagy Afeworki - Julien Lui - Scott Matthews



PHOTO PROJECT

When a basketball tournament is taking place in our neighbourhood, Jamii takes the opportunity to work with youth from our community to develop their documentary and sport photography skills. The participants go through a curation process of all the pictures they have taken during the tournament and choose together the ones to be displayed by the court the following summer.

2016 event: Esplanade Youth Movement
5-on-5 youth vs police basketball tournament

Lead artist: Charlie Lindsay

Esplanadians: Daniela Chow, Selma Ainab, Scarlett Graham, Tabassum Akbar, Sireen, Inas Abdullahi





MOVIE NIGHTS

Over the course of 6 weeks, a group of 15 youth curated the film selection for our 2016 outdoor movie nights. Indepth conversations and debates led to the decision of featuring films that explore “the complexity and diversity of Esplanadian women of all ages”. Participating youth open the movie nights with a panel conversation.

Lead artist: Robert DeLeskie

Esplanadians: Aleina Maragos, Yusra Yacout, Maysam Khreibeh, Karen Lam, Scarlett Graham, Heron Hymus, Noshin, Ribqah Zafar, Pauline Williams, Yasmin Abouali, Kai Miyake-Muyoboke, Emily Jackson, Carolina Caballero, Azmara Stegu

300 in attendance





ST LAWRENCE MARKET CHEERING SECTION SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON

On Oct 16th, Jamii spearheaded the St Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Cheering Section. We were awarded 1st prize for Best Cheering Section, which was shared with Friends of Berzy Park, Princess Gardens and Esplanade Community Group. The programming included a 1km Family Fun Run, 20 drummers, an umbrella choreography (led by Allyson Trunzer), a crafts table and stilt walkers (Heath Tarlin Entertainment).

1km Family Fun Run attendance: 50 (all ages)

Cheering Section attendance: 300+

Neighbourhood Champions (runners): Hagy Afeworki, Monique Guffens, Emily Poirier, Linda Leistner, Solomon Muyobokey, Julien Lui, Jim Stewart.

Organizing committee: Steve Lowden, Dan O'Leary, Mary McDonald, Solomon Muyobokey, Isorine Marc, Zoie Browne, Sabina Bokarica.

Umbrellas donation: Morcan Direct





NIGHTS OUT AT OUR LOCAL THEATRES

Young People's Theatre and Soul Pepper have generously donated tickets to Jamii to bring our young and young-at-heart Esplanadians to shows in their community.

A total of 54 people benefited from this partnership. 32 people saw Young People's Theatre *Seussical*, a musical on all things Dr Seuss. This fantastical musical exemplifies the philosophy that "a person's a person no matter how small".

Soul Pepper generously donated tickets to bring 22 community members to the Bluma Appel Theatre at the St Lawrence Centre for the Arts to see *It's A Wonderful Life*. This cherished holiday classic was reimaged as a 1940s live-radio broadcast and all scripts and sounds were created on stage by a Soul Pepper ensemble.



Young People's Theatre *Seussical*



Soul Pepper *It's A Wonderful Life*

THANKS TO

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Aleina	Mohamed
Amanda	Monique
Asha	Mumina
Azmarra	Nada
Bana	Noriko
Bashir	Pauline
Clarke	Phil
Darren	Raecheal
Devonna	Rahel
Dulce	Ray
Elizabeth	Rita
Frances	Ronny
Gennavive	Sarah
Ivan	Scarlett
Jacob	Sid
Judith	Shaaron
Judy	Solomon
Julien	Thomas
Kai	Yasmin
Karam	Yasmine
Kerryn	Yirgalem
Lula	Zayna
Maysam	Zodiac
Mio	Zoe

OUR STAFF

Isorine Marc - Executive & Programming Director
Zoie Browne - Project Coordinator
Laura Dittmann - Principal photographer
Sabina Bokarica - Co-Op student (Winter term)

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Catherine Schryer - President
Georgia Reynolds - Vice-President
Charlene McGeachie - Treasurer
André Daley-Wiltshire - Secretary
Kyle Miller - Director
Amanda Maragos - Director
Steve Lowden - Director

CORPUS

CORPUS co-produced Patchwork Village and plays a vital role in supporting Jami's endeavour on The Esplanade.



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