



Our 5th season

-2015-



We believe in The Esplanade being a vibrant community where all people sharing our park and our stories are proud Esplanadians.

Jami's programming fosters a sense of pride and belonging to The Esplanade, offers opportunities for social interaction, encourages neighbours to (re)claim ownership of our public spaces and contributes to empowering Esplanadians.

We initiate, curate and produce arts-based community-engaged projects and events that are free of charge, welcoming to everyone, and are taking place in or near David Crombie Park.

Since inception in 2011, Jami organized 159 workshops, directly engaged 496 people in a creative process, produced 60 public events, and presented to an audience of more than 45,000.

Jami receives support from Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, and Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Jami is Swahili for "community".



neighbours

“Neighbours” is a series of photo portraits depicting the cultural diversity of families living on the same street in The Esplanade. This photo exhibit exemplifies our geographic origins in light of our daily living.

Featured in CONTACT, Photography Festival - May 2015.

Photographer: Robert Young

Photography assistant: André Daley-Wiltshire

Exhibit installation: Mike Hutchinson

21 participants/models

Viewers: 1000+





forty-one // book

Written by 53 students from Market Lane Public School and St Michael's Catholic School, "FORTY-ONE Neighbours" is a portrait book that features 41 people, each living in one of the participating countries of the 2015 Toronto Pan Am/Parapan Am Games and having a personal link to The Esplanade neighbourhood. 39 photographers from the Americas participated in the project. 600 copies were printed and distributed locally and internationally.

"FORTY-ONE Neighbours" was launched on April 14th, 2015 at the St Lawrence Hall with 150 people in attendance.

Editorial Coordinator: Rosemary Doyle

Graphic Designer: Joseph Harbans

Illustrator: Yasmin Harris

International Outreach Coordinator: Kerryn Graham

Principal translator: Alvaro Blanch





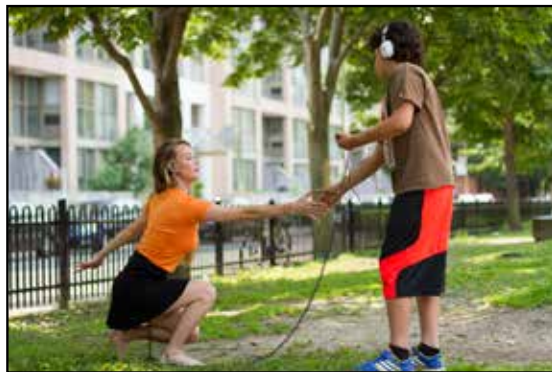
forty-one // dance performance

Based on the concept of ÉCOUTE POUR VOIR, each dance solo was inspired by a portrait from the book “FORTY-ONE Neighbours”. This dance performance was presented on July 4th on The Esplanade, at the opening of the St Lawrence Market on July 11th, and at the Ontario Celebration Zone at the Harbourfront Centre on both July 11th and 13th.

Original concept: Emmanuel Jouthe/Danse Carpe Diem

Lead artists: Michael Caldwell, Laurence Fournier Campeau, Emmanuel Jouthe, Indrit Kasapi, Jolyane Langlois, Alix Sideris

Esplanadians: Mumina Aden Hussien, Karam Aly, Christine Andrews, Athan Belasco, Farid Dastmalchi, Iraj Dastmalchi, Amber Ebert, Yossef Kurdi, Hiba Kurdi, Nasir Robertson, Jacqueline Tarne, Pauline Williams, Kenan Yousef





forty-one // mural

Inspired by the book “FORTY-ONE Neighbours”, a mural was created during an 8-week process under artistic leadership of Nick Sweetman. Seven Esplanadian painters designed and painted the mural at the “Circle/Stonehenge” (The Esplanade & Frederick St). It represents all landmasses in a mixed arrangement, with 41 dots spread throughout and all connected to each other by a ribbon. The artists involved in this project celebrated our connections in spite of physical distance.

Lead artist: Nick Sweetman

Esplanadians: Suzanne Barnes, Kerryn Graham, Marina Hanacek, Andrew Patterson, Julian Periquet, Dan Philips, Ivan Blagojevic, Diana Portokalidis





forty-one // photo exhibit

“FORTY-ONE The Esplanadian Connection” celebrated our similarities and shared our stories with a series of 33 installations along The Esplanade’s promenade. A mirrored reflection of each original picture from the book “FORTY-ONE Neighbours” was re-enacted by 7 local photographers and 104 Esplanadians. This photo exhibit was designed by 9 Esplanadians during a two-month creative process, under the artistic leadership of Jacques Fortier. The exhibit was on display from July to October 2015.

Lead artist: Jacques Fortier

Esplanadians: Nancy Barber, Nancy Brown, Gabrielle Franke, Raecheal Goddard, Mia Hesse-Fernandes, Mike Hutchinson, Margot Mercier, Majeed Zafar, Ribqah Zafar

Graphic designer: Gus Morainslie

Photographers: Grant Cockburn, André Daley-Wiltshire, Laura Dittmann, Cyesha Forde, Charlie Lindsay, Aleshia Nigh-Neverson, Nick Spector

Attendance at unveiling event: 150+



forty-one // all-embracing

On July 4th 2015, drummers and pannists Soul Empi'yah gathered a crowd of 300 who then listened to Ribqah Zafar present the concept of "FORTY-ONE The Esplanadian Connection", shortly after all participants unveiled the photo exhibition along The Esplanade's promenade.

The crowd moved throughout Crombie Park, accompanied by stilt walkers Heath Tarlin Entertainment, and discovered one-on-one dance performances along the way.

When arriving at the circle/stonehenge, the audience was enchanted by guitarist Maneli Jamal, who played just before the unveiling of the mural.

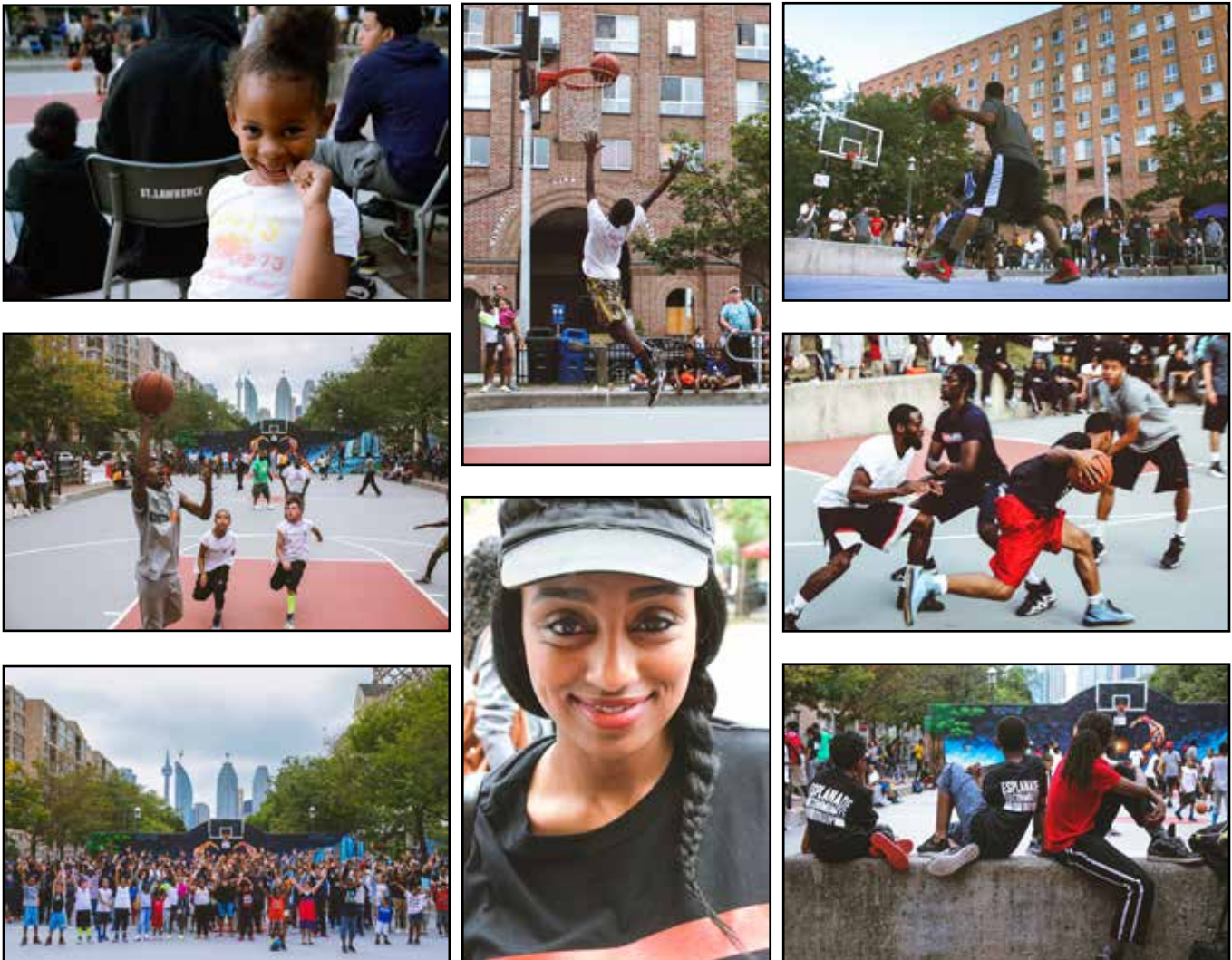




ESPOCC'S 6th Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

When the Esplanade Community Group organizes the Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in August, Jamii takes the opportunity to work with youth from the neighbourhood to develop their documentary and sport photography skills. The youth 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.

Lead artist: Laura Dittmann & Nick Spector
Esplanadians: Monica Cassidy, Ruth Cassidy, Theo Patvin, Desiree Curtis
Below pictures of the 2015 photo exhibit.



Pauline's trip to china

The Esplanade community joined forces to raise funds so that Pauline, a local talented youth, could accompany dance company CORPUS to Xi'An, China. Not only was Pauline offered the chance to have a first hand taste of Chinese culture, but she also gained valuable experience by assisting the dancers with their costumes, by helping with props and tech during the show, and by taking part in a series of dance/theatre workshops.

Our gratitude goes to CORPUS for inviting Pauline on this tour. We are appreciative to all who donated and made this experience possible.





queens of the esplanade

This project first and foremost celebrates individuality and the power of imagination. Through dance, object theatre and storytelling our 18 Queens and Princesses along with 12 Maestros transformed a simple premise into a magical and whimsical theatrical venue. Co-produced with CORPUS for Culture Days and Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, and inspired by CORPUS' Camping Royale.

Lead artist: Carolin Lindner

Choreographer: Kaitlin Torrance

Costume designer: Margot Mercier

Esplanadian Princesses and Queens: Amanda Maragos, Aleina Maragos, Betsy Finnie, Cyesha Forde, Dulce Gomes, Hiba Kurdi, Helena Maragos, Hodan Ibrahim, Hodan Mohammed Abdi, Georgia Reynolds, Genevive Marshall, Keisha Anthony, Linda Leistner, Lula Bunye, Marah Alassar, Melody Arnold, Ribqah Zafar, Yasmin Abouali and professional artists Ashima Suri, Ryan G Hinds, Takako Segawa

Esplanadian Maestros: Clarke Graham, Dan O'Leary, Danielle Laurent-Chazel, Darren Marshall, Kai Muyobokey, Marcos Vilela, Markus Hunter-Vrooman, Maysam Khreibeh, Pauline Williams, Raecheal Goddard, Robert Graham, Scarlett Graham and professional artists David Danzon, Indrit Kasapi





st lawrence market cheering section scotiabank TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON

Jamii spearheaded the organization of the St Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Cheering Section. We were awarded 1st prize for Best Cheering Section, which was shared with Friends of Berzy Park, Parent Resources and Princess Gardens. The programming included a 1km Family Fun Run, 15 drummers from Soul Empi'yah, a dance section (Marisa Ricci), a crafts table and our Queens of The Esplanade.

1km Family Fun Run attendance: 40 (all ages)

Cheering Section attendance: 300+

Neighbour Champions (runners): Hagy Afeworki, Monique Guffens, Emily Poirier, Kerry Graham, Linda Leistner, Jim Stewart, Ian Scott.

Organizing committee: Steve Lowden, Dennis Glasgow, Dan O'Leary, Mary McDonald, Isorine Marc, Zoie Browne, Pablo Astudillo.





5th anniversary celebration

Jamii celebrated its 5th anniversary on November 18th at Performing Arts Lodge. 150 guests and supporters enjoyed live music by Andrew Brewster, stories from Esplanadians, videos, photos and more. This celebration gave us the perfect opportunity to show our appreciation to our sponsors, partners, volunteers and all those who took part in Jamii's projects since 2011. We are happy that Jamii's contribution in making The Esplanade a more cohesive, connected, supportive and vibrant community was recognized and appreciated.





thanks to our volunteers

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Amanda A.	Margot
Amanda M.	Mary
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Azmara	Maysam
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Charlene	Raecheal
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Judy	Steve
Julian	Toru
Kadi	Yasmin A.
Kai	Yasmin H.
Karen	Yirgalem
Kerryn	Zayna
	Zodiac

staff

Executive & Programming Director
Isorine Marc

Project Coordinator
Zoie Browne

Principal photographer
Laura Dittmann

Co-Op student (Fall term)
Pablo Astudillo

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



thanks to our partners and sponsors



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