



THE BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR CELEBRATES ITS 2ND ANNIVERSARY IN APRIL 2016

April marks the **Bloor St Culture Corridor's second anniversary!** The Bloor St Culture Corridor kicks off a long weekend of celebration on April 15 with "Bloor St Culture Corridor: The Architecture of a Toronto Arts District," a round-table panel discussion exploring one of the most diverse and important cultural destinations in Toronto. Since 2005, many of the Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations buildings have been significantly renovated. Great architects contributed to the creation of a real creative hub in Toronto that combines arts, diverse cultural communities, contemporary architecture, and entertainment.

Bloor St Culture Corridor: The Architecture of a Toronto Arts District will be a fascinating evening as **Dean Richard Sommer** (University of Toronto John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape) moderates the on-stage roundtable conversation with **Christopher Hume** (Toronto Star); **Brent Raymond** (DTAH & Ontario Association of Landscape Architects); **Siamak Hariri** (Hariri Pontarini Architects, architect of Alliance Française de Toronto, Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, and the forthcoming ROM Bloor St. plaza); **Bob Sims** (KPMB Architects, architects of The Royal Conservatory's TELUS Centre, including Koerner Hall); **John Lorinc** (Senior Editor, *Spacing Magazine*); and **Toronto City Councillor Joe Cressy** discussing the history of Bloor St and the architecture of its cultural buildings, how the recent cultural organization renovations have revitalized Bloor St. West and led to the creation of the Bloor St Culture Corridor arts district, and the Bloor St Culture Corridor's importance in the City of Toronto. The on-stage discussion will be followed by a wine reception. **Bloor St. Culture Corridor: The Architecture of a Toronto Arts District** takes place **Friday, April 15 at 6pm at Alliance Francaise de Toronto**. Information is available at 416.922.2014 ext. 37 or culturel@alliance-francaise.ca.

As part of Bloor St Culture Corridor's anniversary celebrations, **Bloor St. Culture Stories**, #BCCStories, will showcase some of the unique voices and events that have taken place over the years at Bloor St Culture Corridor venues. All 19 arts and culture organizations that together create the arts district will share stories that celebrate the past and present of the thriving cultural scene along Bloor Street between Avenue Road and Bathurst. These stories will be posted on www.bloorstculturecorridor.com and on the social media feeds of Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations.

The special **Bloor St Culture Corridor anniversary celebration weekend** continues April 15 – 18 with the following events:

Bloor St. Culture Corridor: The Architecture of a Toronto Arts District at Alliance Francaise Toronto

Round-table panel discussion about the architecture of the cultural destinations on the Bloor St. Culture Corridor, followed by a wine reception.

Friday, April 15, 6pm

Free admission

Alliance Francaise Toronto, 24 Spadina Road

Modern Mexico: Fusions, Fashion and Folk Art at the ROM

Visiting speakers and artists discuss the impact of Mexican visual culture, and how it fascinates outsiders and continues to influence global trends.

Saturday, April 16, 9:30am-4:30pm

Tickets available at www.rom.on.ca. ROM Members, YPC Members and RPC Members, \$27; Teachers and Students \$15; Public \$30.

Royal Ontario Museum, Signy and Cléopée Eaton Theatre, Level 1B, 100 Queen's Park (entrance on Bloor St.)

Cooking With Susi Special: Teaching Estos/Greeks How To Cook

One of the most popular events at VEMU has been Cooking with Susi, workshops to keep the Estonian food tradition alive. At this special event the Estonian chef Susi Holmberg and Masters Buffeteria Greek Vatikiotis Family face off in a cooking challenge to teach each other how to cook traditional Estonian and Greek foods.

Saturday, April 16, 4pm

Tickets \$25/\$15 for students, available at Tartu College and yemu.ca

Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU, 310 Bloor St. W. (entrance on Madison Ave.)

Momentum Dance Theatre – Under / Cover at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

Momentum Dance Theatre presents *Under/Cover*, using movement to discover what lies beneath the surface of our stories, experiences and emotions.

Saturday, April 16, 2pm & 8pm

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Al Green Theatre, 750 Spadina Avenue

Simon Shaheen's Zafir: Musical Winds from North Africa to Andalusia – Live at Koerner Hall

Simon Shaheen and Qantara, featuring Moroccan singer Nidal Ibourk, Andalucian flamenco dancer Auxi Fernandez, and Andalucian flamenco pianist Juan Pérez Rodríguez, bring to life the Arab music of Al-Andalus and blend it with flamenco.

Saturday, April 16, 8pm

Tickets start at \$35. 416.408.0208 or www.performance.rcmusic.ca

Koerner Hall at The Royal Conservatory, 273 Bloor St W.

Québec Cinema at Alliance Française Toronto

La Tournée du Cinéma québécois, in partnership with the Festival Cinéfranco and Alliance Française of Toronto, offers a "Cinéfranco special Quebec" panorama of the best recent works of Quebec cinema, with many of the artists from Québec in attendance.

April 16 & 17, various times

Free admission

Alliance Francaise Toronto, 24 Spadina Road

Bata Shoe Museum Family Fun Weekend

This special Family Fun Weekend features four exciting galleries, special arts and crafts, I-Spy in the galleries, and colourful tattoos. Kids can also try on some funky footwear!

Saturday, April 16, 10am–4pm & Sunday, April 17, 12pm–4pm

Included with museum admission.

Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor Street West

Gardiner Museum Architectural Tours

Architectural Tours of the Gardiner Museum: walk through and learn about the modernist building.

Saturday, April 16 & Sunday April 17, 11am & 1pm

Included with museum admission.

Gardiner Museum, 111 Queen's Park

Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU at Tartu College Tours & Documentary Screening

Learn about Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU at Tartu College, temporary home to hundreds of University of Toronto students as well as the academic and cultural meeting place for Toronto Estonians and everyone interested in Estonian culture. The Museum of Estonians Abroad houses the largest Estonian archives and library outside of Estonia.

Friday, April 15, Saturday, April 16, and Sunday, April 17, 12pm & 2pm

Free admission

Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU, 310 Bloor St. W. (entrance on Madison Ave.)

***From Scotland with Love* at Bloor Hot Docs Cinema**

Award-winning director Virginia Heath compiles a rich and haunting love letter to Scotland in this innovative reconstruction of footage from Scottish archives. Paired with a transcendent score by Scottish musician and composer King Creosote, *From Scotland with Love* is a journey through time that explores universal themes of love, loss, resistance, migration, work and play.

Saturday, April 16, 4pm & Sunday, April 17, 3:30pm

Tickets: \$12 (Bloor members: \$8, \$6, Free), mention the Bloor St Culture Corridor's Anniversary and receive 2-for-1 tickets at the door!

Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor Street W.

Gardiner Museum Family Sundays

Family-friendly clay workshop, featuring a dance performance by Tandem Studios! Sculpt dancing figures inspired by Roseline Delisle's geometric dancer, on display at the Gardiner Museum.

Sunday, April 17, 11am – 4pm. Dance Performance at 12pm.

Included with museum admission.

Gardiner Museum, 111 Queen's Park

The Miles Nadal JCC presents Opera for All: Community Concert

Singers from across the city perform a community concert of opera choruses under the baton of conductor Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez with collaborative pianist Asher Farber.

Sunday, April 17, 4pm

Tickets are \$10, in advance at MNjcc or Eventbrite, or at the door

Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor Street West

Ghost Mountaineer movie screening at Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU

Urmas Eero Liiv's feature "Must alpinist" (Ghost Mountaineer) is a young-audience horror film based on the real life story of a Soviet Estonian student hiking group in a series of scary events in wintry Siberia. In Estonian with English subtitles. Coffee and kringel will be served.

Sunday, April 17, 4pm.

Pay What You Can. A small donation is appreciated.

Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU, 310 Bloor St. W. (entrance on Madison Ave.)

Bel Canto! Italian Songs and Opera at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

Internationally acclaimed baritone Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez performs with pianist Asher Farber.

Monday, April 18, 8pm

Tickets are \$20 in advance at MNjcc

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Al Green Theatre, 750 Spadina Avenue

Special Collections: A to Z at the Toronto Reference Library

From "Arctic Exploration" to "Zero Gravity," this exhibit showcases an alphabet of curiosities from the Toronto Public Library's Special Collections.

On view daily until April 24, 2016. Free tours on Tuesdays at 2pm.

Free admission

Toronto Reference Library, TD Gallery, 789 Yonge Street

The Story of the Baltic University 1946-1949 at Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU

This exhibition unveils this history of The Baltic University, where, despite the most difficult conditions in DP camps of devastated Germany, academics from the three Baltic States organized a university with eight facilities and 17 departments, giving many Baltic students the possibility of an academic career.

On view until May 15, 2016

Free admission

Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU, 310 Bloor St. W. (entrance on Madison Ave.)

Tattoos: Ritual. Identity. Obsession. Art. at the ROM

Tattoos looks at the more than 5,000 year-old ancient practice of tattooing, tracing its histories and meanings, and profiling the revival of this global phenomenon of body art.

On view until September 5, 2016

ROM Members, and specially priced tickets available online at www.rom.on.ca: Adults \$8;

Seniors and Students \$6; Children 4-14 years old) \$4; children under 4 are free.

Royal Ontario Museum, Roloff Beny Gallery, Level 4, 100 Queen's Park (entrance on Bloor St.)

Many more exhibitions and events take place on the Bloor St Culture Corridor in the April, too!

A complete calendar of events and programs, including links to each presenting organization and admission and ticket information, are at www.bloorstculturecorridor.com and on the **Bloor St. Culture Corridor mobile app**, available for free download from the Bloor St. Culture Corridor web site, the [iTunes App Store](https://itunes.apple.com), or [Google Play](https://play.google.com).

www.bloorstculturecorridor.com

Twitter: @bloorstculture

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bloorstculturecorridor

The Bloor St. Culture Corridor, Toronto's most diverse arts and culture district, is a true creative cluster; an arts and culture destination, and a sector-enhancing and community-building collaboration between some of Toronto's most dynamic arts and culture organizations. All 19 of the Bloor St. Culture Corridor partner organizations present arts and cultural events for the public year-round in destination venues - all located in a cluster along a vibrant stretch of Bloor Street West. The Bloor St. Culture Corridor offers the public a wide variety of arts genres, from museum experiences to films, art exhibitions to music concerts, and opportunities to experience some of Toronto's cultural diversity, including French, Jewish, Italian, Japanese, Estonian, and Aboriginal arts and culture. Each year more than three million members of the public go to Bloor St. Culture Corridor arts and culture destinations, and attend exhibitions, performances, and events. Together, the Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations generate more than \$629,500,000 in economic impact each year.

Bloor St. Culture Corridor partner destinations include:

Alliance Française de Toronto: 24 Spadina Road www.alliance-francaise.ca

Bata Shoe Museum: 327 Bloor Street West www.batashoemuseum.ca

Bloor Hot Docs Cinema: 506 Bloor Street West www.bloorcinema.com

Gardiner Museum: 111 Queen's Park www.gardinermuseum.com

Istituto Italiano di Cultura: 496 Huron Street www.iictoronto.esteri.it

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre: 750 Spadina Ave. www.mnjcc.org

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto: 16 Spadina Road www.ncct.on.ca

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM): 100 Queen's Park (Entrance on Bloor Street W.) www.rom.on.ca

The Royal Conservatory of Music / Koerner Hall: 273 Bloor Street West www.performance.rcmusic.ca

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra & Chamber Choir: 427 Bloor Street West www.tafelmusik.org

Talisker Players: 427 Bloor Street West www.taliskerplayers.ca

The Toronto Consort: 427 Bloor Street West www.torontoconsort.org

University of Toronto Faculty of Music: 80 Queen's Park www.music.utoronto.ca

Bloor St. Culture Corridor associates include:

918 Bathurst Centre for Culture, Arts, Media + Education: 918 Bathurst St. www.918bathurst.com

The Japan Foundation, Toronto: 2 Bloor Street East www.jftor.org

Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU: 310 Bloor Street West www.vemu.ca

The Randolph Centre for the Arts: 736 Bathurst St. www.randolphcentreforthearts.com

Soundstreams: various venues on the Bloor St. Culture Corridor www.soundstreams.ca

Toronto Reference Library: 789 Yonge Street www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

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