



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR IN APRIL 2016

The **Bloor St. Culture Corridor**, Toronto's most diverse arts and culture district, celebrates its second anniversary in April with a weekend of events that starts on April 15 with **Bloor St Culture Corridor: The Architecture of a Toronto Arts District**, an on-stage roundtable panel discussion exploring one of the most diverse and important cultural destinations in Toronto. **Dean Richard Sommer** (University of Toronto John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape) will moderate the discussion with **Christopher Hume** (Toronto Star); **Brett Raymond** (Ontario Association of Landscape Architects); **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**. The discussion will address 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 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, all 19 arts and culture organizations that together create the arts district will be **sharing stories that reflect on the past and present of the thriving cultural scene along Bloor Street** between Avenue Road and Bathurst. **Bloor St. Culture Stories**, #BCCStories, will showcase some of the unique voices and programming that has taken place over the years at Bloor St Culture Corridor venues, and will be posted online at www.bloorstculturecorridor.com.

In April the **ROM** launches the new exhibition **Tattoos: Ritual. Identity. Obsession. Art.**, exploring the multifaceted world of tattooing and the complex relationship between tattoo artists and tattooed. On Tuesday, April 5 at 7pm, the **Art of Ink** lecture features the ROM's Ann Webb, tattoo artist and author Henk Schiffmacher "Hanky Panky", and musée du quai Branly curators Anne & Julien. Tickets are available online and include a post-event reception. On Thursday, April 14 at 11am, **ROM Daytime: Earth Day: Bird Research and Conservation** takes place with Mark Peck, ROM Ornithologist. Free with RSVP. The **ROM's Modern Mexico: Fusions, Fashion and Folk Art** takes place on Saturday, April 16 9:30am - 4:30pm, with a discussion on Mexican visual culture. The ROM's **Annual Allan Baker Memorial Lecture**, is on Tuesday, April 19 at 7pm and features Harvard's Scott V. Edwards, talking **about From Dinos to DNA: The Story of Birds**. Tickets include a post-event reception. Visit rom.on.ca for details and tickets.

The **Bloor Hot Docs Cinema** brings Michael Moore back with the hilarious and eye-opening call to arms: **WHERE TO INVADE NEXT** (April 2-21). **THE WINDING STREAM** tells the story of the American roots music dynasty, the Carters and the Cashes (April 8-14). Made entirely of Scottish film archives, **FROM SCOTLAND WITH LOVE** features a transcendent score by Scottish musician King Creosote (April 15-19). Enjoy unprecedented access to the treasures of Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum with **VINCENT VAN**

GOGH: A NEW WAY OF SEEING (April 16). **HOCKNEY** (April 22-27) highlights the life and career of an important contributor to the POP Art movement: **David Hockney**. Presented with **The Royal Conservatory of Music, YO-YO MA: INSPIRED BY BACH** screens as part of the **Music on Film Series** (April 26). Mark your calendars for the annual **Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival** (April 28-May 8). Visit www.bloorcinema.com for more information.

The Bata Shoe Museum welcomes April with a series of themed events On April 2, **Toronto Storytelling Festival** will take place 1-3pm, where an afternoon of stories, rhymes and songs will be presented with performers Rita Cox, Carol Ashton, Sally Jaeger and Erika Jaeger. Afterwards, kids can make a bookmark, hang out in the reading nook and play in the sock puppet theatre. A special **Family Fun Weekend** April 16 & 17 features four exciting galleries, special arts and crafts, I-Spy in the galleries, and colourful tattoos. Kids can also try on some funky footwear! **The Polished Man: Dressing Your Best at the BSM** will take place on April 29, 5:30-9pm. Pedro Mendes, one of Toronto's leading men's style experts and author of the popular site *The Hogtown Rake* advises on dressing well, building and maintaining a wardrobe and why it's important to do so, and patina artist Emmanuel Farré from Maison Patina and Parisian menswear boutique, Loding, will demonstrate his unique and elegant patina technique on genuine leather goods and footwear. The evening will also include pop-up shops with premium men's accessories, a bespoke shoemaker, shoe care demonstrations, and tours of the exhibition **Standing Tall: The Curious History of Men in Heels**. For more information and event tickets, visit: www.batashoemuseum.ca

The **Istituto Italiano di Cultura's** highlight of the month is the exhibition **Public Ambitions**, the second installment in the series "**Italy under Construction.**" On view April 6 through May 6, the exhibition features ten works by architects ABDR (Rome); Baukuh (Milan); CeZ (Bolzano); Emanuele Fidone (Siracusa); Garofalo Miura (Rome); ifdesign (Milan); mdu architetti (Prato); MoDus architects (Bressanone); Scandurra Studio Architettura (Milan); Studio Paola Viganò (Milan). On April 5 Gaia Massai presents the lecture **A cultural journey through Italian wines**. More information is at www.iictoronto.esteri.it.

Alliance française Toronto welcomes painter **Anne Maizia** in an exhibition titled "**Regards de femme(s)**," on view for the month. On April 10, children will travel with storytellers **Mafane and Marie-Célie Agnant** and their Créole stories. On April 8 and April 23, Alliance française presents Belgian pianist **Olivier de Spiegeleir** for the best movie soundtracks as well as **Trinity Mpho** and his band for a vibrant world music concert. Every Wednesday, lecturers talk on various subjects such as politics, history, and art history with lectures on Trudeau, Monteverdi, and Acadian communities. As always, Thursdays are the day for cinema! This month, screenings include **Barry Lindon** directed by Stanley Kubrick, **Bye Bye Blondie** directed by Virginie Despentes, **Man on the train** by Patrice Leconte and **Tous les matins du monde** directed by Alain Corneau.

Rediscover Bach's famous **Goldberg Variations** with **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra**, as French harpsichordist **Benjamin Alard** makes his Tafelmusik debut, from April 1-3 at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre. Experience all 30 variations in a virtuosic solo performance by one of the world's most exciting young keyboard players. This concert also features **Grégoire Jeay**, **Jeanne Lamon**, and **Christina Mahler** in **Bach's** Trio sonata from *The Musical Offering*. Celebrate spring as **Ivars Taurins** leads the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir in **Zelenka & Bach**. Czech composer Jan Dismas Zelenka's exuberant *Missa Omnium Sanctorum* is perfectly suited for the intimate setting of Trinity-St. Paul's, especially when paired with Bach's *Wedding Cantata*, as sung by German soprano Dorothee Miels. The remaining solo roles in the Zelenka mass will be sung by the winners of the Tafelmusik Vocal Competition: Kim Leeds, mezzo-soprano, Jacques-Olivier Chartier, tenor, and Jonathan Woody, bass-baritone. Visit tafelmusik.org or call 416.964.6337 for tickets.

At the **Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU** the exhibition **The Story of the Baltic University 1946-1949** is on view until May 15, 2016. On April 3 at 11am, **Nancy Bush**, an enthusiast of Estonian handicraft from the United States will be presenting a workshop on the **Three-Sided Haapsalu Scarf**. She will also lecture on the topic **How I Found Estonia through Knitting** on April 6 at 7pm. For the Bloor St. culture Corridor anniversary celebrations April 15 to 17, visitors are invited to special building tours and a book

sale. Popular cooking events will continue on April 16 at 4pm with a workshop **Teaching Estos/Greeks How to Cook**, Estonian chef **Susi Holmberg** and Master's **Buffeteria Vatikiotis** family face off. On April 17 at 4pm, TCFS will be screening a brand new feature film from Estonia, **Ghost Mountaineer** (Kopli Kinokompanii, 2015, with English subtitles), a horror based on real life events about a hiking trip gone wrong. On April 23 at 6pm, VEMU will host its **Fifth Fundraising Dinner**, with Estonian musician/actor Marko Matvere performing. The event is dedicated to the **Year of Sea Culture in Estonia**, as are Matvere's other two performances. On April 24 at 3pm, Matvere will share his experiences from traveling around the world on the catamaran "Nordea" in 2010-2012. On April 26 at 7:30pm, Matvere will also give a concert with accordionist Peep Raun, **I Like the Land!** All events take place at Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU at Tartu College. Visit www.vemu.ca for further details.

The **University of Toronto's Faculty of Music** presents the **Cecilia String Quartet**, Ensemble-in-Residence, on Monday, April 4. The quartet will perform a commissioned piece by Katie Agócs, Mendelssohn's String Quartet Op. 44 No. 2 in E Minor and Brahms' Clarinet Quintet Op. 115 in B Minor with guest clarinetist **James Campbell**. More information can be found at www.music.utoronto.ca.

At the **Gardiner Museum**, see the special exhibition **Beneath the Surface: Life, Death, Gold and Ceramics in Ancient Panama** before it closes next month. Discover incredible artifacts left behind by the mysterious Coclé people—golden plaques, precious jewels, and literally tons of painted ceramics. A three-tier recreation of the largest burial site includes artifacts displayed in their original positions with interactive touchscreens allowing for further exploration. A special talk takes place Thursday, April 21 at 6pm with Dr. Andy Roddick, who will discuss his work in Bolivia and Peru, a region that evokes many of the myths that continue to haunt practicing archaeologists in the region today. As part of the Bloor St. Culture Corridor 2nd anniversary, the Gardiner is conducting architectural tours on April 16 & 17, 11am and 1pm daily. Led by our knowledgeable docents, the tours will offer a glimpse of the rich history associated with our modernist building. Family Sundays 11am-4pm are when kids can take part in hands-on clay activities. Admission is free every day for children under 12 years old. For more information visit www.gardinermuseum.com.

On April 8 at the Gardiner, everyone is invited to join **Soundstreams** and guest teachers **Jamie Drake** and Dan **Morphy** to learn a popular piece of minimalist music and make musical history! Attendees will learn and perform **Steve Reich's Clapping Music** in celebration of Reich's 80th birthday. Free admission, with PWYC reserved seating available. Online registration is at www.soundstreams.ca/performances/salon-21/clapping-music/

The **Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre**, "The J," presents an **Opera For All Masterclass** April 2, leading up to the **Opera for All: Community Concert** on April 17 when 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. The concert takes place at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre and tickets are \$10. The next day, April 18, back at The J's Al Green Theatre, Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez performs with pianist Asher Farber in **Bel Canto! Italian Songs and Opera**. Iain Scott's **Opera Appreciation** Monday afternoon lecture series continues with his exploration of Fathers and Mothers on April 4 and 11. The Al Green Theatre is packed with cultural events this spring, starting with the Toronto premiere of **Rock in the Red Zone**, The Toronto Jewish Film Society's powerful documentary about Israeli rock music in a war zone, co-presented by the Ashkenaz Foundation on April 3. The Spur Festival is hosting two events on April 9, exploring **Masculinity** and **Feminism**, and Momentum Dance Toronto presents **Under Cover** April 13-16, a dance performance exploring the theme of new interpretations through cover songs. Join interpreter Arthur Gunter in a beginner's lesson to ASL with a focus on Passover signs in **ASL: Passover Edition** on April 20. More information can be found at www.mnjcc.org

Every Thursday evening, the **Native Canadian Centre of Toronto** presents the **Big Drum Social**, 6:30pm-8:45pm. Everyone is welcome! A special **Moccasin Making Workshop** will be offered on April 13-14, 6-8pm. In this 2-day workshop, Tracy Jobin will show participants step by step how to make their very own moccasins. Registration is \$60 including all materials, and required in advance, by calling 416.964.9087 ext 335 or by email cedarbasket@ncct.on.ca.

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](#), or [Google Play](#).

www.bloorstculturecorridor.com

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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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