



TORONTO'S MOST DIVERSE ARTS AND CULTURE DISTRICT
Bloor St. West, Toronto, Canada

www.bloorstculturecorridor.com

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TORONTO'S MOST DIVERSE ARTS AND CULTURE DISTRICT

THE BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR IS...

AN ARTS DISTRICT

The Bloor St. Culture Corridor is Toronto's most diverse arts and culture district. It is a consortium of some of Toronto's most dynamic arts and culture organizations, formed in 2014. Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations present arts and cultural events for the public year-round in destination venues located in a cluster along a vibrant 1.5kms / 1mile stretch of Bloor Street West. In 2016, the Bloor St. Culture Corridor's area of Bloor St. West was designated an official City of Toronto cultural corridor.

A PARTNERSHIP

Uniquely Torontonians in cultural richness, diversity, and community, the arts and culture organizations along Bloor St. West came together to create the Bloor St. Culture Corridor. The Bloor St. Culture Corridor is a partnership, there is no organization separate from the organizations that are the Corridor.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

The Bloor St. Culture Corridor highlights the extraordinary arts, entertainment, and cultural experiences that are so easily accessible along Bloor St. West, between Bathurst and Bay: museums, film screenings, art exhibitions, music concerts, culture talks, theatre, architecture, and more. It also offers opportunities to experience some of Toronto's most accessible cultural diversity, including Aboriginal, French, Jewish, Estonian, Italian, Japanese, African and Caribbean arts and culture.

A NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Bloor St. Culture Corridor encompasses three major neighbourhoods of Toronto; the Annex, University of Toronto, and Yorkville, and includes 5 major Toronto Transit (TTC) subway stations. Torontonians and visitors to the city can easily take public transit to get to the Bloor St. Culture Corridor, and walk from a museum to an afternoon art talk or exhibition, shop, have lunch or dinner, and enjoy a concert or film.

IMPACT

More than **three million members of the public** go to Bloor St. Culture Corridor arts and culture destinations, and attend exhibitions, performances, and events, each year.

Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations generate **more than \$629,500,000 in economic impact** each year.

Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations **employ 5,500 culture workers** in the city of Toronto.

THE WORK WE DO

BUILD PROFILE AND AWARENESS OF THE BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR

- Establish and promote Bloor St. West as a vibrant arts district in downtown Toronto.

STIMULATE ATTENDANCE AT OUR ARTS DISTRICT & EACH OF OUR CULTURE DESTINATIONS

- Promote the arts and culture organizations that are the BCC partners and associates.
- Encourage and foster audience development and cross-pollination between organizations.
- Promote the Bloor St. Culture Corridor as an attractive destination for arts and culture.
- Highlight the unique range, quality, and diversity of cultural experiences in this vibrant area.

DEVELOP & FOSTER OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR CITY

- Provide a forum for partnerships and a network of resources to BCC organizations.
- Play a collaborative leadership role in the vitality of the Bloor St. West neighbourhood.
- Play an active role in City of Toronto cultural projects and initiatives

CORE VALUES

- The partner and associate organizations are the Bloor St. Culture Corridor – not separate, like members of an association.
- The Bloor St. Culture Corridor is a consortium and the organizations work together as a collective.
- Every partner organization is equal.
- Every organization has something unique to offer others and the collective whole.
- Everything is inclusive. Every organization is represented and included equally in all projects and initiatives (marketing, meetings, events, etc.).
- Projects and initiatives benefit each of our organizations and the collective whole.
- Every person and organization contributes time, effort, and expertise, based on interest and availability, to benefit the whole group.
- The partner and associate organizations discuss and decide things together.
- We recognize and appreciate that each of our organizations is part of an ecosystem. Sometimes many ecosystems, such as neighbourhood, genre sectors, ethnocultural community, and others, and this is beneficial to everyone.



BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR INCLUDES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

- Alliance Française de Toronto
- Bata Shoe Museum
- A Different Booklist Cultural Centre
- Gardiner Museum
- Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema
- Istituto Italiano di Cultura
- The Japan Foundation
- Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre
- Museum of Estonians Abroad
- The Music Gallery
- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- The Randolph Centre for the Arts
- The Royal Conservatory of Music
- Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)
- Soundstreams
- Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra
- The Toronto Consort
- Toronto Reference Library
- University of Toronto Faculty of Music
- 918 Bathurst Centre for Culture, Arts, Media and Education



BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR PARTNERS **(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

Alliance Française de Toronto

24 Spadina Road

416.922.2014 www.alliance-francaise.ca

Alliance Française provides a cultural immersion experience through concerts, lectures, round-tables, art exhibitions and other social activities featuring a broad range of artists and academics from Canada, Europe and beyond. The new building blends Victorian architectural heritage with a modernist vision, and includes an art gallery, a theatre, classrooms, and a French library.

Bata Shoe Museum

327 Bloor Street West

416.979.7799 www.batashoemuseum.ca

With an international collection of over 13,000 shoes and related artefacts, the Bata Shoe Museum celebrates 4,500 years of footwear history. In addition to the semi-permanent exhibition, *All About Shoes* the Museum has three rotating galleries, ensuring that each visit offers a new experience. Through the creation of innovative exhibitions, the Museum strives to enlighten and entertain visitors of all ages. Exciting adult and children's programming activities and a unique gift shop complete the experience.

A Different Booklist Cultural Centre: The People's Residence

777-779 Bathurst Street

416.538.0889 www.adifferentbooklist.com

A Different Booklist Cultural Centre is a non-profit hub, destination and space dedicated to the intellectual and cultural experience of people of African and Caribbean ancestry. It is the organic expression of the years of cultural activities cultivated by the independent bookstore, A Different Booklist. It is a place where invention and pioneering meet to create youth expression and intergenerational activity. The People's Residence is a destination and home away from home.

Gardiner Museum

111 Queen's Park

416.586.8080 www.gardinermuseum.on.ca

The Gardiner Museum is Canada's national ceramics museum, and one of the world's great specialty museums, presenting special exhibitions, events, lectures and drop-in open clay classes to complement its permanent collection galleries. Enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner at the Gardiner Bistro by à la carte Kitchen Inc. or stop by the Gardiner Shop recognized as one of the best museum shops in Toronto. Guided tours daily at 2pm.

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

506 Bloor Street West

416.637.3123 www.bloorcinema.com

The Bloor Hot Docs Cinema is an historic, century-old cinema and one of the world's only documentary-focused theatres. Operated by Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, the 710-seat venue is a year-round destination for first-run Canadian and international documentaries, as well as special presentations, including the monthly Doc Soup series. As a longstanding community cinema, it also hosts many of the city's independent film festivals. The theatre is fully licensed and serves Ontario beer and wine.

Istituto Italiano di Cultura

496 Huron Street

416.921.3802 www.iictoronto.esteri.it

The Italian Cultural Institute, Cultural Section of the Consulate General of Italy in Toronto, is a centre for cultural and academic activities, a school of Italian language and civilization, a source of information about contemporary Italy, as well as a venue for art exhibitions, lectures, films, and video screenings.

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

750 Spadina Ave.

416.924.6211 www.mnjcc.org

The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is a dynamic hub for people of all ages and backgrounds. You'll find a wide range of cultural experiences as well as physical health and wellness programs and facilities! Catch a film; take up pottery; join a choir; attend a play, lecture or concert; enjoy the exhibitions in our Gallery; participate in music programs or family celebrations; learn Hebrew or Yiddish and so much more! Whether you're Jewish, Jew-ish, or not Jewish – You Belong Here!

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto

16 Spadina Road

416.964.9087 www.ncct.on.ca

The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto is an Aboriginal community cultural centre that offers activities and events based on cultural teachings and traditions of First Nations people. Located in a beautifully renovated heritage building just north of Bloor Street, the Centre also includes Cedar Basket, the store, which offers a variety of First Nations clothing, leather goods, carvings, beadwork, jewelry, music CDs and more.

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)

100 Queen's Park (Main Entrance on Bloor Street West)

416.586.8000 www.rom.on.ca

See your world come alive at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)! Opened in 1914, the ROM, now in its Centennial year, is internationally renowned as a distinguished institution and Canada's largest museum of natural history and world culture. Whether you're interested in dinosaurs, Canadian history, ancient Egypt, biodiversity, or more – there's something exciting for everyone at the Royal Ontario Museum. Through our eight Centres of Discovery, the ROM invites you to access our encyclopedic collections and curatorial expertise while enjoying engaging exhibitions, programming, lectures, school visits and many more ways to feed your mind.

The Royal Conservatory / Koerner Hall

TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning: 273 Bloor Street West

416.408.0208 www.rcmusic.ca

The Royal Conservatory is a hub of music – live concerts, music creation, and music appreciation. Canada’s largest music education institution features one of the world’s finest concert halls, Koerner Hall, “the greatest venue in this city” (*Toronto Star*), and other two concert venues where you can take in a performance by international classical, jazz, pop, and world music stars, concerts by The Conservatory’s world-renowned faculty, or watch masterclasses as international masters teach the rising stars of the Glenn Gould School and The Taylor Academy. You can also take a Music Appreciation class or learn an instrument at The Royal Conservatory School.

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra & Chamber Choir

427 Bloor Street West

416.964.6337 www.tafelmusik.org

Led by Music Director Elisa Citterio, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir is one of the world’s leading period-instrument ensembles and Canada’s most-toured orchestra. Tafelmusik engages audiences with an annual concert season in Toronto, as well as national and international audiences through an extensive schedule of tours and critically-acclaimed recordings. Tafelmusik’s catalogue of award-winning recordings on the Sony, CBC Records, Analekta, and Tafelmusik Media labels have garnered nine JUNOs and numerous other recording prizes. “One of the world’s top baroque orchestras,” (*Gramophone*)

The Toronto Consort

427 Bloor Street West

416.964.6337 www.torontoconsort.org

The Toronto Consort is internationally recognized for its excellence in the performance of medieval, renaissance and early baroque music. Ensemble members are early music specialists, and include both singers and instrumentalists. The Toronto Consort is constantly exploring new repertoires, often in collaboration with other artists, such as actors, dancers and visual artists, to produce concerts which have dramatic as well as musical appeal. The Toronto Consort performs at Jeanne Lamon Hall, at Trinity-St. Paul’s Centre, a historic church on Bloor Street.

University of Toronto Faculty of Music

80 Queen’s Park

Office: 416.978.3750 Tickets: 416.408.0208 www.music.utoronto.ca

The University of Toronto Faculty of Music is one of Canada’s leading music institutions for presenting concerts and for training performers, scholars, composers, and educators. In addition to hundreds of events by students and faculty members, the Visiting Artists and Scholars program provides additional opportunities to attend performances and lectures. Resident ensembles include the Cecilia String Quartet, Gryphon Trio, and Nexus Percussion Ensemble, and visiting ensembles include the New Orford String Quartet and the Theatre of Early Music.



BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR ASSOCIATES *(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)*

918 Bathurst Centre for Culture, Arts, Media and Education

918 Bathurst Street

416.538.0868 www.918bathurst.com

918 Bathurst Centre for Culture, Arts, Media & Education is a not-for-profit, multi-purpose venue, for arts, culture, community & special events located in Toronto's vibrant Annex neighbourhood.

The Japan Foundation, Toronto

2 Bloor St. E., Suite 300

416.966.1600 www.jftor.org

The Japan Foundation, Toronto is a cultural centre introducing Japan to the Canadian public through arts, language and academic study. Events including art exhibitions, film screenings, language classes, readings, lectures, workshops and demonstrations, are presented year-round in the gallery and event hall. A public lending-library holds more than 23,000 Japan-related materials in English, French and Japanese. The Japan Foundation is a Japanese organization that promotes international exchange between Japan and other nations.

Museum of Estonians Abroad/VEMU

310 Bloor St. W.

416.925.9405 vemu.ca

Museum of Estonians Abroad (VEMU), located at Tartu College, connects Canadian and Estonian communities through rich and vibrant cultural programming including lectures, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, film screenings, theatre, concerts, and more, in Estonian and English.

The Music Gallery

918 Bathurst St.

416.204.1080 musicgallery.org

The Music Gallery is Toronto's pre-eminent presenter of genre-defying concert music. Occupying a unique position within Toronto's musical ecology, The Music Gallery presents, encourages, and promotes leading-edge contemporary music in all genres. Established in 1976 by members of the Canadian Creative Music Collective (CCMC), The Music Gallery has fostered innovation and experimentation in music for more than 40 years. The Music Gallery's home venue is at 918 Bathurst Centre for Culture, Arts, Media and Education.

The Randolph Centre for the Arts

736 Bathurst St.

416.924.2243 www.randolphcentreforthearts.com

The Randolph Centre for the Arts includes the historic Randolph Theatre (formerly the Bathurst Street Theatre), the intimate Annex Theatre, and several Studios, where you can see a range of theatre and music performances. It is also home to the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, Canada's first Triple Threat® training institution for professional performers.

Soundstreams

various venues on the Bloor St. Culture Corridor.

416.504.1282 soundstreams.ca

Soundstreams is one of the world's leading contemporary music companies, and the biggest global presenter of new Canadian music. The company showcases the work of living Canadian and international composers, with a focus on innovative thematic and experiential programming that provides context and contributes to the rich legacy of Canadian music at home and around the world.

Toronto Reference Library

789 Yonge Street

416.395.5577 www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

The Toronto Reference Library presents a wide array of literary and cultural experiences for Torontonians, including art and cultural exhibitions at its TD Gallery, showcasing the library's vast special collections; and lectures, talks and readings from national and international authors, thinkers and newsmakers at its Appel Salon.



CRITERIA

Bloor St. Culture Corridor “Partners”

- present professional arts and culture
- for the public
- in a year-round destination venue
- on, or within a block of Bloor St., between Bathurst and Bay Streets

Bloor St. Culture Corridor “Culture Associates” present arts and culture events, but do not fit all of the partner criteria.

All Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations contribute time and resources on behalf of, and for the good of, the collective whole. All organizations also make an equal annual cost-sharing financial contribution.

VENUES

- **1 Cinema Theatre** (Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema)
- **4 Museums** (Bata Shoe Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, Gardiner Museum, Museum of Estonians Abroad)
- **5 Concert Halls** (Jeanne Lamon Hall, Koerner Hall, Mazzoleni Concert Hall, Walter Hall, MacMillan Theatre)
- **5 Performance Theatres** (Toronto Reference Library, Randolph Centre for the Arts, Spadina Theatre at Alliance Francaise, Royal Ontario Museum, Al Green Theatre at Miles Nadal Jcc,)
- **11 Multi-Purpose Event Spaces** (918 Bathurst, Native Canadian Centre, Gardiner Museum, Bata Shoe Museum, Istituto Italiano, Temerty Theatre at Royal Conservatory of Music, Museum of Estonians Abroad, Japan Foundation, Toronto Reference Library, Miles Nadal Jcc, A Different Booklist Cultural Centre)
- **5 Art Galleries**, not including museums (Alliance Francaise, Japan Foundation, Istituto Italiano, Miles Nadal Jcc, 918 Bathurst, Toronto Reference Library)
- **5 Libraries** (Toronto Reference Library, Alliance Francaise, Japan Foundation, Royal Conservatory of Music, University of Toronto Faculty of Music)
- **6 Gift Shops or Book Stores** (Native Canadian Centre, Gardiner Museum, Bata Shoe Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, Alliance Francaise, A Different Booklist Cultural Centre)
- **Arts Education Classes, Courses, Lectures & Workshops** (ALL Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations)
- **Language and Culture Education** (Native Canadian Centre, Miles Nadal Jcc, Alliance Francaise, Istituto Italiano, Japan Foundation)

ARCHITECTURE

- **Gardiner Museum** Architect: Shirley Blumberg, KPMB Architects (2005 renovation)
- **Royal Ontario Museum - Michael Lee Chin Crystal.** Architect: Daniel Libeskind (2008 addition)
- **The Royal Conservatory - TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning.** Architect: Marianne McKenna, KPMB Architects (2008 addition)
- **The Royal Conservatory - Koerner Hall.** Architect: Marianne McKenna, KPMB Architects Acoustician: Bob Essert, Sound Space Design (2009)
- **Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema.** Architect: Hariri Pontarini Architects (2012 renovation, originally opened in 1913)
- **Tafelmusik and Trinity St. Paul's Centre - Jeanne Lamont Hall.** Architect: Edwin Rowse, ERA Architects Acoustician: Bob Essert, Sound Space Design (2013 renovation, originally opened in 1889)
- **Alliance Française de Toronto** new theatre and classrooms. Architect: Siamak Hariri, Hariri Pontarini Architects (2014 renovation)

LOCAL COLLABORATORS

- There are two BIAs (Business Improvement Areas) in the Bloor St. Culture Corridor: The Bloor-Annex BIA and the Bloor-Yorkville BIA. The Bloor St Culture Corridor is a completely separate and autonomous organization that collaborates with the local BIAs.
- The Bloor St. Culture Corridor bridges two City of Toronto wards: Ward 20 (Councillor Joe Cressy, City of Toronto) and Ward 27 (Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, City of Toronto).

TRANSPORTATION

- There are five Toronto Transit Subway Stations along the Bloor St. Culture Corridor:
 - Bay Station (east-west on the Bloor line)
 - Museum Station (north-south on the University line)
 - St. George Station* (interchange station: north-south line and east-west line)
 - Spadina Station (interchange station: north-south line and east-west line)
 - Bathurst Station (east-west on the Bloor line)

*The St. George Station, located in the centre of the Bloor St. Culture Corridor, is on the Yonge-University-Spadina and Bloor-Danforth lines. It is the second-busiest subway station in Toronto (after Bloor-Yonge), serving approximately 254,000 people per day.

- There are bike lanes for cyclists along both sides of Bloor Street; eastward and westward lanes.

NEIGHBOURHOODS

- **The Annex:**

Considered a food and shopping mecca, this neighbourhood is well known by Torontonians as one of the friendliest areas of the city. Bohemia and academe meet head on in this lively downtown community surrounding the University of Toronto. The Annex offers visitors a blend of beautiful old homes, coffee shops, and stores of all kinds. When evening falls, the Annex turns into one of the busiest, hippest areas of town, with people flocking from all over the city to the many restaurants, bars and patios offering food and drink from around the world – with a soundtrack provided by the many venues offering live music. Its vital nightlife welcomes people from all over the city -- a great example of Toronto at its very best.

The name “the Annex” can be traced back to the early 1880s when merchant and land speculator Simeon Janes used “Toronto Annexed” for his elite residential developments. The lands had been annexed by the City in order to provide necessary services, such as water, sewers and paved roads. The City of Toronto continued to annex additional properties west to Bathurst Street and the Bloor Annex was formed.

- **University of Toronto:**

The Downtown Toronto (St. George) campus of the University of Toronto blends historical architecture and inviting green spaces as a backdrop to a truly remarkable community. U of T facilities on Bloor Street include the Varsity Stadium, the Munk School of Global Affairs in the historic “Observatory” building, and more. Not far south, along Philosopher’s Walk (a lovely park path between the ROM and The Royal Conservatory), is the Faculty of Music’s MacMillan Theatre, and further along is Hart House, which houses a theatre and art gallery.

- **Bloor-Yorkville:**

Bloor-Yorkville is a unique neighbourhood in the heart of Toronto's urban landscape - home to the award winning Village of Yorkville Park, iconic fashion retailers, unique designer boutiques, cafes, restaurants, galleries and over 150 spas & salons. In the 1960s, Yorkville flourished as Toronto's bohemian cultural centre. It was the breeding ground for some of Canada's most noted musical talents, including Joni Mitchell, Neil Young and Gordon Lightfoot, as well as then-underground literary figures such as Margaret Atwood, Gwendolyn MacEwen and Dennis Lee. Yorkville was known as the Canadian capital of the hippie movement. During the 1970s and 1980s, many high end Bloor Street businesses such as Harry Rosen, Holt Renfrew and international designer brands began to attract chic boutiques, cafes, first class art galleries and salons to the area, and the famous coffee houses faded into the past. Now Bloor-Yorkville is Toronto's most celebrated neighbourhood of style!