



TORONTO'S MOST DIVERSE ARTS AND CULTURE DISTRICT
Bloor St. West, Bathurst to Bay

www.bloorstculturecorridor.com

Twitter: [@bloorstculture](https://twitter.com/bloorstculture)

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The Bloor St. Culture Corridor, Toronto's most diverse arts and culture district, is comprised of 19 of Toronto's most vibrant arts and culture organizations.

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 French, Jewish, Estonian, Italian, Japanese and Aboriginal arts and culture.

Uniquely Torontonians in cultural richness, diversity, and community, the arts and culture organizations along Bloor St. West have come together in partnership to create the Bloor St. Culture Corridor.

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.

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. (Based on the Ontario Ministry of Tourism & Culture's TREIM model.)

The Bloor St. Culture Corridor free mobile app provides access to special offers exclusive to app users, and a convenient way to easily see the richness of cultural destinations and events on offer in the Bloor St. area of central Toronto. The app's social feed connects users with the latest news and announcements from the Twitter feeds of all of the arts and culture destinations on the Bloor St. Culture Corridor. Users can also browse through options for shopping, eating, and hotels on the Corridor. The Bloor Culture mobile app is available from the Bloor St. Culture Corridor web site at www.bloorstculturecorridor.com, via the [iTunes App Store](#), [Google Play](#), and m.bloorstculturecorridor.com. *The Bloor Culture mobile app was developed with the support of the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and promoted with the support of the Toronto Arts Council.*



Bloor St. Culture Corridor partners include:

- Alliance Française de Toronto:** 24 Spadina Road www.alliance-francaise.ca
- Bata Shoe Museum:** 327 Bloor Street West www.batashoemuseum.ca
- Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema:** 506 Bloor Street West www.hotdocscinema.ca
- Gardiner Museum:** 111 Queen's Park www.gardinermuseum.on.ca
- 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 / 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 St. E., Suite 300 (*new location opening Oct. 2015*) www.jftor.org
- Museum of Estonians Abroad:** 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
- Toronto Reference Library:** 789 Yonge Street www.torontopubliclibrary.ca



FACTS & BACKGROUND INFO

About the Bloor St. Culture Corridor

- All 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 Associates are located slightly beyond the geography of the Bathurst to Bay range of the Corridor's core, but are within an easily walkable few blocks and present a wonderful variety of professional arts and culture events for the public.
- More than 3,000,000 members of the public go to the Bloor St. Culture Corridor arts and culture destinations each year.
- Bloor St. Culture Corridor organizations collectively generate more than \$629,500,000 in economic impact each year. (Based on the Ontario Ministry of Tourism & Culture's TREIM model.)
- The Bloor St. Culture Corridor destinations are located along 1.5kms / 1mile
- 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 works with the local BIAs whenever possible.
- People in Toronto and around the world can interact with the Bloor St. culture Corridor through social media on Twitter (@bloorstculture) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bloorstculturecorridor)
- The free Bloor St. Culture Corridor mobile app is available for download from:
www.bloorstculturecorridor.com, iTunes App Store, Google Play
The Bloor Culture mobile app was developed with the support of the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and promoted with the support of the Toronto Arts Council.
- 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 the Bloor-Yonge Station), serving approximately 254,000 people per day.

Architecture

- **2005: Gardiner Museum reopens after renovation.** Architect: Shirley Blumberg, KPMB Architects
- **2007: Royal Ontario Museum opens Michael Lee Chin Crystal.** Architect: Daniel Libeskind
 - Named in recognition of Michael Lee-Chin and his extraordinary \$30 million gift to the ROM, the Museum's renovation and expansion project was considered to be one of the most challenging construction projects in North America for its engineering complexity and innovative methods; the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal is composed of five interlocking, self-supporting prismatic structures that co-exist but are not attached to the original ROM building, except for the bridges that link them.
- **2008: The Royal Conservatory opens the new TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning.** Architect: Marianne McKenna, KPMB Architects
- **2009: The Royal Conservatory launches Koerner Hall, an award-winning 1135-seat concert hall in the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning.** Architect: Marianne McKenna, KPMB Architects
Acoustician: Bob Essert, Sound Space Design
 - The Royal Conservatory's TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning has won more than 10 prestigious awards, including the Ontario Association of Architects Award of Excellence; Governor General's Award; Pug Award; Canadian Interiors Best of Canada Project Winner; Heritage Toronto Award; RAIC National Urban Design Award, and others.
- **2012: Hot Docs launches the new Bloor Hot Docs Cinema.** Architect: Hariri Pontarini *Architects*
 - The historic Bloor Hot Docs Cinema opened its doors as a film house in 1913 under the name Madison Theatre, making it one of the first picture palaces in Toronto. With 710 seats, the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema is the largest single-screen cinema in the city and one of the only documentary-focused theatres in the world.
- **2013: Tafelmusik and Trinity St. Paul's Centre launch the newly renovated sanctuary as the Jeanne Lamont Hall concert hall.** Architect: Edwin Rowse, ERA Architects
Acoustician: Bob Essert, Sound Space Design
 - Timothy Eaton, founder of the Eaton's department store empire, helped fund the building of Trinity Methodist Church in 1889 at 427 Bloor Street West, near Spadina. An example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style so popular in Toronto in the late 19th century, today it is the newly renovated (autumn 2013; E.R.A. Architects) and thriving Trinity-St. Paul's Centre.
- **2014: Alliance Française de Toronto** opens renovated and expanded building with new concert/lecture/film theatre. Architect: Siamak Hariri, Hariri Pontarini *Architects*
- **2015: Royal Ontario Museum's Welcome Project** includes renovation of the Bloor St. plaza biodiversity gardens, public space, and open-air performance space. Architect: Hariri Pontarini, Hariri Pontarini *Architects*

The Bloor St. Culture Corridor bridges and connects three major neighbourhoods in downtown Toronto:

- **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!



BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR PARTNER DESTINATIONS *(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.

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.

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.

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

Catch a film; see a play or concert; enjoy the exhibitions in the Gallery; join in our music programs and community choirs or one of the many family celebrations; try Hebrew or pottery lessons and work out in the fully-equipped fitness facility, gym, indoor running track, and saltwater pool. The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is a dynamic hub of opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to be active, to learn, to connect and to participate in a wide range of cultural experience.

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.performance.rcmusic.ca

Take in a concert by international classical, jazz, pop, and world music stars at one of the world's finest concert halls, Koerner Hall, or one of the Conservatory's other two concert venues. Artists range from Yo-Yo Ma, Mavis Staples, Los Lobos, and Bruce Cockburn, Max Raabe, Gilberto Gil, Angélique Kidjo, Ramsey Lewis, Brian Blade, Lizz Wright, and Angela Hewett, plus the Conservatory's own world-renowned faculty. Koerner Hall is "the greatest venue in this city" and "magnificent in its acoustics, as much as in its design." (*Toronto Star*)

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra & Chamber Choir

427 Bloor Street West

416.964.6337 www.tafelmusik.org

Tafelmusik, Canada's award-winning period instrument orchestra, is renowned for its exhilarating and soulful performances of baroque and classical music. "One of the world's top baroque orchestras," (*Gramophone*) Tafelmusik tours internationally and performs 50 concerts annually in Toronto at Trinity- St. Paul's Centre, Jeanne Lamon Hall, named after Tafelmusik's longtime Music Director. The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, directed by Ivars Taurins, has been described as "the best period-performance choir anywhere in the world." (*The Globe and Mail*)

Talisker Players

427 Bloor Street West

416.466.1800 www.taliskerplayers.ca

Talisker Players is a unique ensemble of instrumentalists dedicated to collaborating with singers. Celebrated for its passionate and stylish accompanying, the group performs with choirs throughout Ontario, as well as in opera and theatre. Its members are boundary-crossing players, equally at home in baroque and modern, classical and pop. The Players' own concert series, at historic Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, is one of Toronto's most eclectic and adventurous, combining words and music in evenings that are as theatrical as they are musical.

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's Faculty of Music is one of Canada's leading music institutions for concerts and for training performers, scholars, composers, and music educators. The Visiting Artists and Scholars Program provides opportunities to see performances and music lectures by leading composers, performers, and scholars. Resident Artists include the Gryphon Trio, Cecilia String Quartet, Nexus Percussion Ensemble, the Canadian Brass and Theatre of Early Music.



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

918 Bathurst Centre for Culture, Arts, Media + 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 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.

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.