

# ARTS AHEAD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **RE: Symposium 2018 – Beyond Barriers: Creative Strategies for Accessible, Inclusive and Connected Art Experiences.**

**TORONTO (February 1, 2018)** – On Tuesday February 27, 2018, Centennial College’s Arts Management students present **Arts Ahead** - the program’s third annual professional development symposium entitled **Beyond Barriers: Creative Strategies for Accessible, Inclusive and Connected Art Experiences**.

Undeterred by labour interruptions this past fall, the Arts Management post-graduate cohort remains united in presenting their capstone project. Organized by a collective of aspiring arts managers, the full day symposium brings together professional speakers and delegates from the arts and culture sector to share best practices on cultivating diverse and broad audiences and creating versatile arts experiences.

Says Rebecca Peirson, the Arts Management Program Coordinator as well as a Professor in the program: “I couldn’t be more proud of this group of students. They looked at many themes, whittled them down and chose a hot button topic that resonates hugely in today’s arts and culture world. They did not shy away from a challenging topic and I have every faith in them that they will deliver a robust, provocative and exciting day for aspiring arts managers and industry professionals alike.”

Providing a platform for open discussions on relevant issues within the arts community, **Beyond Barriers** addresses the question: How can we all succeed as art managers and cultural workers in bringing people from all different backgrounds and abilities together, both with sensitivity and responsibility?

Included in the **Beyond Barriers** symposium will be three engaging panel discussions:

- Inclusive and Diverse Communities in the Arts
- Accessibility in the Arts
- Canada Post 150 – Conversations on Decolonization in the Arts

### **Speakers include:**

**Amir Ali Alibhai,**  
Head of Performing Arts, Aga Khan

**Rebecca Burton**  
Membership & Contracts Manager,  
Playwrights Guild of Canada

**Naomi Campbell**  
Deputy Artistic Director, Luminato

**Julia Dumanian**  
CEO, Canadian Hearing Society

**Karin Eaton**  
Executive & Artistic Director,  
Mural Routes

**Eilidh Fisher**  
Program & Communications  
Coordinator, ArtsBuild Ontario

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**Kim Fullerton**

Founder & Director, Akimbo

**Alex Glass**

Program Manager, ArtsBuild Ontario

**Peter Kingstone**

Visual/Media Arts Officer,  
Toronto Arts Council

**Jennie Robinson Faber**

Executive Director,  
Dames Making Games

**Charles Smith**

Co-Chair, Ontarians for the Arts

**Khan Tudo**

Filmmaker,  
Insomniac Film Festival

**About Arts Ahead:**

*Arts Ahead* is a student collective organized through the Post Graduate, Arts Management Program at Centennial College's Story Arts Centre. As aspiring arts managers with backgrounds in various disciplines, students came together under the umbrella of Arts Ahead to highlight the importance of arts management through an annual symposium.

Through these events, Arts Ahead seeks to provide cultural professionals with professional development and networking opportunities to strengthen the position of arts management within the Toronto and Canadian arts, culture and heritage industries.

**Date & Time:** Tuesday February 27 2018, 8:30am – 4:30pm

**Location:** Story Arts Centre, Centennial College  
951 Carlaw Avenue,  
Toronto, ON, M4K 3M2

**Website:** [www.artsahead.org](http://www.artsahead.org)

Hashtag: #ArtsAhead2018

Facebook: @artsahead

Twitter: @CCartsahead

Instagram: @CCartsahead

**For more information or interview requests please contact:**

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