



LOST, FOUND AND UNBOUND:

Exploring Overlooked Opportunities for Arts Engagement

2023



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Exploring Overlooked Opportunities for Arts Engagement

Arts Ahead is an annual symposium for arts professionals and cultural leaders organized by the post-graduate Arts Management cohort at Centennial College. The full-day event is an opportunity for artists and arts workers to share professional insights and participate in meaningful dialogue about current and future trends in the arts & culture landscape. The symposium also provides a networking forum for aspiring arts managers and current industry professionals to strengthen the position of arts management within the Toronto and Canadian arts, culture, and heritage industries.

Follow us on social media platforms and our website!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROGRAM COODINATOR

Rebecca Peirson

(She/Her)

Program Coordinator, [Arts Management, Centennial College](#)



Eight. It's a nice whole number. In numerical form it's a shape I'd like to skate. But on paper it represents the bold reality of the 8th year of Arts Ahead. It's quite something. And so is this year's cohort. This student-led event is born from the Arts Management students' learnings, hard work and know-how. After 2 years of presenting online, the students are beyond thrilled to be back in person. Lost, Found and Unbound. Impactful words. February 15th will be a day to be together in person and to explore overlooked opportunities for arts engagement. A lot has been overlooked, some has been found - the possibilities for real engagement are unbounded! Please join me in congratulating our arts and cultural soon-to-be graduates and get ready to enjoy a full day of learning, networking, silent-auction-bidding and more!

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Event details

-  Feb 15, 2023
-  10 AM - 4 PM
-  [Society Clubhouse](#) (967 College St, Toronto, ON M6H1A6)
-  [Artsahead.org](#)
-  [Tickets](#)

Schedule



- 9 30** Registration
- 10 00** Opening, Greeting & Land Acknowledgement
- 10 15** Panel #1: Art in Unexpected Places
- 11 15** Coffee Break
- 11 30** Pitch, Please!



- 12 30** Lunch (Catered lunch & networking)
- 1 30** Interactive Workshop #1: The Art of Drag!
- 2 00** Interactive Workshop #2: Everyone is an Artist!
- 2 30** Coffee & Networking Break
- 2 45** Panel #2: Breaking Barriers
- 3 45** Thank You's & Closing Statement
- 4 00** Event ends



**ARTS
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Panel #1

Art in Unexpected Places

Art in Unexpected Places will explore new and exciting ways to use art as a tool to reclaim public spaces and disrupt everyday routines.

Moderated by: Adam Barrett

Speaker

Anjuli Solanki

(She/her)

Program Director, STEPS Public Art

Anjuli Solanki (she/her) is an artist and urban planner with 15+ years in community engagement, public programming and urban research. She is the Program Director with STEPS Public Art and has been the project manager and administrative producer for numerous multi-stakeholder public art projects. Anjuli has also developed community programming and research through roles with the Riverside Business Improvement Area, Open City Projects, the Artists' Network, the UBC Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver, Museums of Malawi in Blantyre, Goethe Institute and the Akilah Institute in Rwanda. She has served on the Board of the Artists' Network and Co-Chair/Facilitator for the Toronto Ward Museum's Programming Committee, as well as provided support to arts, culture and heritage initiatives across the country. She holds a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Oxford Brookes University and a Bachelor of Arts in Human Geography from the University of British Columbia. Anjuli has a passion for creative placemaking, public art and urban heritage.



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Speaker

Anna Gallagher-Ross

(She/her)

Senior Manager of Programming, The Bentway

Anna Gallagher-Ross (she/her) is a curator working across performance, dance, and visual arts, with an emphasis on site-specific and socially-engaged practices. Currently, she is Senior Manager of Programming at The Bentway, an innovative site in downtown Toronto that commissions and presents performances, public art projects, and community events that are of the city, about the city; for the city. From 2017-2021, Anna was Co-Artistic Director & Curator of Fusebox Festival, the acclaimed international performance festival, which features interdisciplinary artists from Austin, the U.S., and around the world. At Fusebox, Anna also curated year-round performances, artist residencies, public art projects, and civic initiatives. In 2020, Anna was a guest curator at Performance Space Sydney's Live Works Festival. She was also part of the inaugural cohort of GENERATE (2019-20), a joint program of the British Council and Arts Council England that promotes exchange between a select group of US and UK performance curators and producers.



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Speaker

Rui Pimenta

(He/him)

Founder & Co-curator, [Artspin](#)

Rui Pimenta practiced as a visual artist from 2000-2014, exhibiting his work extensively in Canada and internationally. Since then, his creative focus has shifted toward programming and curation. In 2009 he founded Art Spin, an arts organization now entering its 15th year of presenting site-specific, multidisciplinary programming in unique/alternative spaces and best known for its bicycle art tours. He was the Co-Director of Median Contemporary (2008-10) and has curated projects for the Toronto Artists Project, the Toronto Outdoor Exhibition, Eastern Front Gallery and the Government of Portugal. He has served on various arts council juries, was a member of the City of Toronto's Public Art Strategy Advisory Committee and currently sits on The Bentway Advisory Committee. His curatorial aspirations are largely motivated by the enthusiastic pursuit of creating engaging and accessible ways to present art in public space.



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Moderator

Adam Barrett

(He/Him/They/Them)

Producer / Programmer, Luminato Festival Toronto

Adam Barrett is an art and culture professional with 20 years of experience in Toronto theatre, film, and community arts programming. Recent highlights include producing “What You Won’t Do For Love” starring David Suzuki for The Luminato Festival, creating and direction of The Toronto Mycelial Network and Doorstop Diaries programs at East End Arts where, developing and producing “The Campfire Project” by Shadowland Theatre (summer 2019); Video designer for “Fences” at the London Grand Theatre (dir. Djanet Sears); writer, producer, and video designer of “Temple of the Divine Queer” at Buddies in Bad Times for the Rhubarb Festival; producer for Natasha Greenblatt and Rimah Jabr’s “Two Birds One Stone” at the Tarragon Workspace. The Toronto Star said of my projection design for “The Great War” in 2016, “Adam Barrett put the video back in VideoCabaret,” which is completely untrue, but a pretty damn good quote.



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ARTS LEAD

Pitch, Please! Arts Integration

Pitch, Please! is a “Walrus Talks”-style forum that will identify and promote the importance of arts integration across various fields, including urban planning, education, health, and community building.

Moderated by: Rebecca Peirson

Speaker

Andrew Davies

(He/him)

Founder and Executive Director, No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment

Andrew Davies received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Queen's University, a Masters in Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture and a Masters of Science in Cities from the London School of Economics. Through his extensive career in the visual arts, first at MoMA and then as a public art consultant in Toronto, Davies has learned the power and influence that art and culture can have on our society. In 2006, he founded the charitable arts organization No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment to support artists and their quest to bring awareness to pressing environmental issues. Under Davies's direction, No.9 has produced and commissioned more than 30 public art installations in Toronto and delivered hands-on sustainable design education to over 5,000 students across Canada. In 2018, No.9 launched Canada's first Sustainability and Reconciliation Centre called No.9 Gardens. This alternative educational facility empowers students through creative hands-on learning to lead a revolution in building sustainable communities.



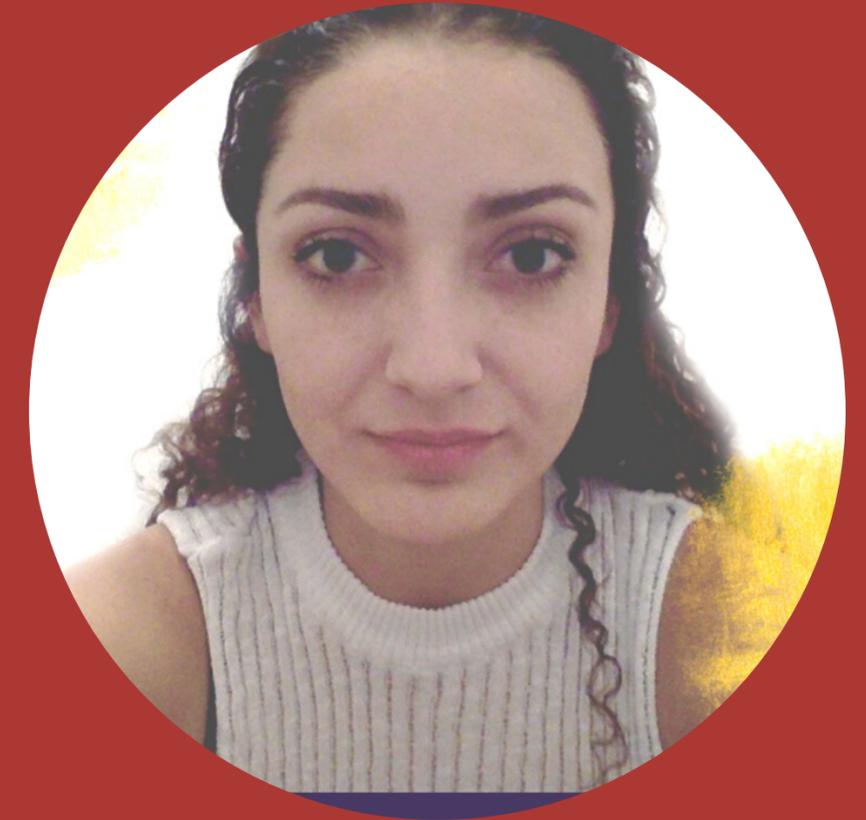
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Speaker

Azul Baez

(She/Her)

Administrative and Programs Coordinator, Workman Arts



Originally from Mexico, now operating in Toronto, Canada. I'm an arts administrator, non-clinical art therapist, and community builder. From my highly-sensitive character, I create art practices that make us imagine greater futures, both personal and collective. My educational training is in the History of Arts and Aesthetics from the Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana, Mexico. Later my passion for community work led me to do a postgraduate degree in Art Education and Community Engagement at Centennial College, Canada.

My professional experience includes curatorial and educational work with arts organizations as well as art direction for audiovisual productions for the film and advertisement industry. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time in nature and dancing. I am an advocate for mental health and food justice, both are a recurring inspiration in my work.

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Speaker

Ariana Moscote Freire

(She/Her)

Senior Policy Advisor, Ontario Creates



Ariana Moscote Freire is the Senior Policy Advisor at Ontario Creates, an agency of Ontario's Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport that is mandated to support the economic development of Ontario's creative industries, including book publishing, film/tv, music, interactive digital media, and magazine media. As a research and policy professional, she enjoys working on initiatives that increase sector capacity through sharing of business intelligence and best practices.

Prior to joining Ontario Creates, Ariana worked as a head of research and project manager in a boutique management consulting firm that specialized in cultural facilities and municipal cultural planning. She was also a Research Developer at the Glasgow School of Art during a year abroad in Scotland. She holds a BA in Communications and Journalism from Concordia University and a Master of Arts in Communication Studies from McGill.

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Speaker

Christina Giannelia

(She/Her)

Executive Director, North York Arts



Christina Giannelia is inspired by the role the arts play in uplifting, inspiring and celebrating communities. Born and raised in Toronto, Christina has over a decade of experience in the international arts /non-profit sector, having held leadership positions in arts organizations in Canada and abroad. She is an alum and Board member of the School of Toronto Dance Theatre and holds an MA in Cultural Economics and Entrepreneurship from Erasmus University Rotterdam. Christina is passionate about innovation and is excited by the creativity of future generations and their impact on the changing world.

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Speaker

Jasmine Vanstone

(She/her)

Communities & Outreach Coordinator, TO Live

Jasmine Vanstone is a Jamaican-Canadian multidisciplinary artist and arts administrator based in North York who explores the themes of anti-Black racism, mixed-race identity, mental health and wellness, and environmental justice. A graduate of York University, she earned a BFA with Honours in Visual Art-Studio and a Certificate in Cultural and Artistic Practice for Environmental and Social Justice (CAP). Jasmine pursued further arts administration experience through Centennial College's Arts Management Program and is currently the Communities & Outreach Coordinator at TO Live. In 2022, Jasmine was awarded the JAYU Arts For Human Rights iAM Award, recognizing her passion for social justice and the arts. With hopes to inspire, impact, and amplify marginalized voices through community engagement and arts education, Jasmine continues to grow through professional development opportunities such as Sketch's NextUp! Leaders Lab, VIBE Arts NEXt & Desire Lines Mentorship Programs, JAYU, and North York Arts.



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Speaker

Kyla Radoja

(She/Her)

Public Art and Partners Manager, [Toronto Artscape Inc.](#)

Kyla Radoja's passions for art, design and heightening the experiences of public spaces are united fully in her current role. Prior to this, Kyla was an Interior Architect in her hometown of Edinburgh, Scotland. Kyla has since traveled and lived around the world and moved to Toronto over a decade ago. Within Toronto, Kyla has gained rich experiences in event planning, production management, and art curation at Nuvango Gallery and Notion Manufacturing before moving further into the public art management realm at Artscape Atelier in July 2020.

In her spare time, she creates and showcases her own art and spends as much time walking in nature and urban exploring as her feet will take her. Art was the foundation that allowed Kyla to feel like part of the community and the City on her journey to becoming a resident in Canada; it is a connector of people from a variety of cultures, languages and backgrounds. When creatives are part of the fabric of the environment, the community's experiences thrive.



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Moderator

Rebecca Peirson

(She/Her)

Program Coordinator, Arts Management, Centennial College

Rebecca is a seasoned arts marketing professional. She managed Mongrel Media's Theatrical and Video Marketing and Sales departments, was the Marketing Manager at the National Film Board of Canada, the Marketing and Communications Director at Nightwood Theatre, the Associate Director of Marketing and Audience Development at Luminato Festival as well as the Marketing Manager at Crow's Theatre. Rebecca currently sits on the Board of the Association of Arts Administration Educators.

As Program Coordinator of the Arts Management program at Centennial College, Rebecca brings a wealth of organizational and administrative experience to her lead role as well as solid post-secondary teaching experience – Centennial's Arts Management and Museums and Cultural Management programs as well as Seneca College's Event Marketing program. From January 2019 to January 2020, she was hired as the interim Chair of the Arts and Design department at Centennial's School of Communications, Media, Arts and Design and continued her role as the Arts Management Coordinator.



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Workshop #1

The Art of Drag!

The Art of Drag! is an interactive performance-based workshop that will dive wig-first into the artistic and entrepreneurial secrets behind a successful career as a drag performer.

Host

Miss Shay Dee

(She/Her/They/Them)

Toronto-based Drag Performer

For the past 7 years, Miss Shay Dee (born Ivan Bocanegra) has been inspiring and empowering youth and young adults through the art of dance and drag. Miss Shay Dee was born in Mexico, raised in the U.S. and now living in Canada.

As an entertainer in Toronto, Miss Shay Dee serves all her dancing skills & culture to the show. Although her “Miss Shay Dee” persona may imply a sense of “shady,” she is kind, lovable, and always looking to shine a ray of light onto everyone’s day. Miss Shay Dee is a strong supporter of diversity & inclusion, working alongside The 519, Drag Academy, You Do You Foundation & many more.

Miss Shay Dee is also known now as a recording artist signed with SoFierce Music & Sony Music Entertainment, featured in Private Eyes S5 on Global TV Network, Toronto’s Latin sensation, a contestant in the new season of Call Me Mother on OutTV, Amazon Prime + AppleTV and your newly crowned Miss El Convento Rico 2022-2023.



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Workshop #2

Everyone is an Artist!

Everyone is an Artist is an interactive group rehearsal activity led by Mollie Garrett from Factory Theatre dedicated to proving that everybody can be an artist capable of creating unique and personal works of art.

Facilitator

Mollie Garrett

(She/Her)

Fundraising and Development Manager, Factory Theatre

Mollie Garrett is a playwright, dramaturg, and arts administrator based in Toronto. As a playwright, Garrett is interested in the intersection and inclusion of artistic accessibility, finding humour in surprising places, and exploring love in all its forms. Currently, Garrett has two scripts in development with Toronto Arts Council funding. She has written and performed in Urban ARTeries (Theatre Gargantua) and Play This (Tottering Biped Theatre) and is the Fundraising and Development Manager for Factory Theatre. Previously, Garrett was Producer for Theatre Gargantua. While in London, she produced and was dramaturg on two festivals of new work, as well as numerous productions at Camden People's Theatre, Theatre Royal Haymarket and CentrE17. She holds an MA in Text and Performance from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and a BA in Drama from the University of Waterloo.



Photo by Dahlia Katz

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Panel #2

Breaking Barriers

Breaking Barriers will discuss creative avenues to improve accessibility, diversity, and equity in the arts sector.

Moderated by: Akua Delfish

Speaker

Deanna Cadette, MPPA

(She/her)

Advisor – Talent and Industry, [Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada](#)

Deanna Cadette is a media entertainment executive dedicated to leading workforce development and industry transformation through strategic partnerships, evidence-based initiatives and a focus on outcomes.

She serves as talent and industry advisor for the Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada team after launching the five-year office in 2020 during its initial phase of growth. The team invests in career pathway initiatives for creators, craftspersons and technicians from historically underrepresented communities in Canada.

Prior roles in entertainment include project lead for CBC's engagement and inclusion office, director of the former WGC/Bell Media Diverse Screenwriters Program, a policy analyst at the Writers Guild of Canada (WGC), and camera assistant with the Cinematographers Guild (I.A.T.S.E. 677). Deanna's professional experience is supported by an MA in Public Policy, a BA in Journalism & Film Studies and a Certificate in Project Management.



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Speaker

Ilter Ibrahimof

(He/Him)

Co-founder, Artistic Director, [Fall For Dance North](#)

Ilter Ibrahimof is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Fall for Dance North, Toronto's Premier International Dance Festival. Born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey, Ilter moved to North America in 1998, first to attend Emerson College in Boston and then living and working in New York City and Montréal before settling in Toronto. Ilter's own dance touring agency Sunny Artist Management was active from 2004-2020, representing dance companies & artists of the highest calibre from around the world.

As a creative mind in the dance field, Ilter is regularly invited to participate in various festivals and conferences in Canada and around the globe as a curator and speaker. He is the host of ISPA's podcast Meditations On and an Associate with the art consulting group CASC, based in the Netherlands. In 2020, the Dance Collection Danse Hall of Fame awarded Ilter the Sandra Faire Next Generation Award.



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Speaker

Keshia Palm

(She/Her/They/Them)

Artistic Producer, Paprika Festival

Keshia Palm is a Filipino-German artist from Treaty 6 Territory who seeks to expose, challenge and dismantle systems of oppression by creating thoughtful and inclusive art/spaces — as a Producer, Director, Dramaturge, Playwright, and Actor. Keshia has developed and performed new works with IBPOC, queer, women, and trans artists with companies across Canada. Since 2016, they have found a community where there are trees standing in the water, creating art, bringing artists together, and supporting emerging artists through ArtistProducerResource.com and artistic producing the Paprika Festival. During the pandemic, she has focused on creating micro-art-experiences reflecting on what gifts the future will bring and what tools we have to ignite transformative change.

Select Credits — Direction: As a Former Fat Kid, Tangled (Nightwood Groundswell Festival). Assistant Direction: The Year of the Cello (Theatre Passe Muraille), Beautiful Man (Factory Theatre), The Winter's Tale (Shakespeare in the Ruff). Performance: The Cherry Orchard (Modern Times), Shadow Girls (Rhubarb Festival).



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Moderator

Akua Delfish

(She/her)

Co-founder, [GoLEFT Creatives Inc](#)

Akua Delfish is a multidisciplinary artist in love with cultural art forms of African and Caribbean origins and has performed for over 34 years. She is the Co-founder and Program Director for D'LYFE Dance Company and the co-founder of GoLEFT Creatives Inc., a creative services and consultation company. Akua holds an M.A. in Communication, Culture, and Technology from Georgetown University and an Honours B.A. from York University in Fine Arts Cultural Studies, with a minor in Sociology.

In other capacities, Akua is senior communication professional in the federal public service, an event producer with CaribbeanTales Media Group, and an emerging film producer. Supporting cultural arts, young artists, and the community is at the heart of Akua's involvement; current projects include artist development workshops, mentorship, online series production, as well as publication and lecture opportunities.



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Meet the Team

Co-Chairs



Rebecca Reid

(They/Them)



Yash Chhabria

(He/Him)



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Programming



Santiago Guzmán Alarcón

(He/Him)



Rory Gilheany

(He/Him)



Laura Torres

(She/Her)



Felix Cheng

(He/Him)

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Development



Avalon Acaso

(She/her)



David Figueroa

(He/him)



Simranjit Kaur

(She/her)

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Operations



Azadeh Pirazimian

(She/her)



Ermelinda Cela

(She/her)



Vivek Patel

(He/him)



Judith Healey-Greene

(She/her)

Marketing



Charmian Chan

(She/her)



Aiko Calasagsag

(She/her)



Maria Triviño

(She/her)



Kent Kwok

(He/him)



Queenie Abia

(She/her)



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Website



Kyle, Chi Yeung Yim

(He/him)



Beyza Cakir

(She/her)

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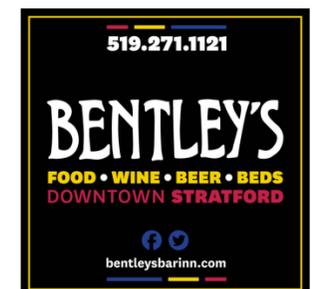


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