



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Meet the city builders whose vision has transformed Toronto

Mitchell Cohen and Judy & Wilmot Matthews to be celebrated at CreativeTO Gala

TORONTO – The Toronto Artscape Foundation will honour legendary city builders **Mitchell Cohen** of **The Daniels Corporation** and **Judy & Wilmot Matthews** at a special CreativeTO gala. The event will feature an exhibition dedicated to showcasing and celebrating their immense contributions to Toronto, which have helped to humanize urban spaces, create a more vibrant and livable city, and improve quality of life for all citizens. CreativeTO will also include art installations by seven contemporary artists: **Jonathon Anderson, Chris Foster, Dave Kemp, Rana Malik, Jihee Min, Ekow Nimako** and **Lyla Rye**. An after-party with **DJ Skratch Bastid** begins at 9 PM. CreativeTO VIP guests will include prominent members of the urban development, construction, finance and legal industries, plus leaders of cultural-sector organizations and independent artists.

This is an opportunity to feature urban development leaders responsible for shaping innovative places and spaces enjoyed by all Torontonians. Media are invited to attend the event through RSVP.

Event Details

Date/Time: Thursday, November 30, 2017 from 6 PM to 10 PM

Location: Artscape Youngplace, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto

6:30 PM Doors Open

8:15 PM Remarks & Performance

9:00 PM After-party with Skratch Bastid

Interviews are available with the following individuals:

- Mitchell Cohen, President, The Daniels Corporation
- Judy and Wilmot Matthews, prominent cultural philanthropists
- Tim Jones, CEO, Artscape
- Seven Featured Artists (See bios page 2)
- Exhibit Artists (See bios page 2)



Media Contact

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Background

Judy and Wilmot Matthews

The Matthews are committed city builders with a vision. Through their work they have ensured that Toronto's public spaces and green spaces are cared for and culture remains at the heart of the city's growth. They have made outstanding commitments to projects that make our city livable and lively: Evergreen Brick Works, the Toronto Music Garden, the transformation of St. George Street and the University of Toronto and multiple Artscape community cultural hubs. Most recently, they have taken the lead in supporting The Bentway, a precedent-setting project transforming 1.75 kilometres under the Gardiner Expressway into an innovative public space.

The Matthews have pioneered a new type of philanthropy and community engagement, taking their responsibility as citizens seriously and making bold commitments to make our city a better place to live, work and create.

Mitchell Cohen

Mitchell Cohen, President of The Daniels Corporation, is an exceptional advocate for the arts who consistently works to ensure that the arts remain embedded within the fabric of Toronto. Through support of organizations such as TIFF, Second Harvest and Toronto Community Housing, The Daniels Corporation has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring we all can live in vibrant, creative and healthy communities. To date, Mr. Cohen and The Daniels Corporation have collaborated with Artscape on two projects, Daniels Spectrum and Artscape Sandbox, both of which have made it possible for artists and arts organizations to animate and enrich Toronto's neighbourhoods. Artscape is now collaborating with Mr. Cohen and The Daniels Corporation in one of its most ambitious projects to date, Artscape Daniels Launchpad. As part of the Daniels City of the Arts development, Artscape, George Brown College, OCADU and other non-profits will have the opportunity to serve artists and community members through a creative innovation hub in the newly redeveloped East Bayfront.

Exhibition Design: Tucker McLachlan and Shaheer Tarar

Participating Artists

Chris Foster is a multidisciplinary visual artist, designer and carpenter currently based in Toronto. His artwork investigates issues around material culture, the built environment and spaces in transition. He has exhibited in Canada nationally from St. John's Newfoundland to Dawson City Yukon and his work can be found in the private and public collections across the country.



Dave Kemp is a visual artist whose practice looks at the intersections and interactions between art, science and technology: particularly at how these fields shape our perception and understanding of the world. He currently works as an Assistant Professor in the School of Image Arts at Ryerson University.

Jonathon Anderson is an Assistant Professor of Interior Design at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Furniture Design from Savannah College of Art & Design and a Bachelor of Science with concentration in Architecture from Southern Illinois University. Jonathon's consulting and professional practices concentrate on the use of digital design for fabrication.

Ekow Nimako was born in Montreal and studied Fine Arts at York University. He began using LEGO® in his professional practice in 2013 and has since cultivated a unique approach to sculpting the iconic material; his current body of work explores Black identity with surrealist figurative sculptures. Ekow lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

Jihe Min explores art as means to engage issues of identity and displaced culture within Canada's multiculturalism. Min's practice employs narrative strategies and autobiographical experiences in a wide range of media.

Lyla Rye is a Toronto based artist who began her studies in architecture. She works in installation, sculpture, video and photography to explore our experience of architectural space. She received a BFA from York University and an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. For over 25 years her work has been exhibited in galleries across Canada and internationally.

Rana Malik spent her formative years travelling continents. Her interest in design piqued at Ryerson University where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Interior Design. Upon graduation, Malik attended Cranbrook Academy of Art where she completed her Master's degree in Architecture. Malik's studio practice techniques focus heavily on narrative, material study and fabrication. She is concerned with the event of a place, the anatomy of a space and the extension of a building.

About the Toronto Artscape Foundation

The Toronto Artscape Foundation, a registered charity, believes in the power of art to transform communities. The Toronto Artscape Foundation works to increase the public's understanding of arts and culture through education, while supporting and sustaining facilities that provide space for artistic and cultural events. Support from individual donors, public and private foundations, and corporations empowers the Toronto Artscape Foundation to undertake ambitious projects that positively impact the lives of artists and foster vibrant communities and cities through the power of the arts.