



Countdown to Public Opening of ARTSCAPE YOUNGPLACE West Queen West's New Community Cultural Hub

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 – One of the country's most creative neighbourhoods, Toronto's West Queen West, is about to see a new community cultural hub come to life when [Artscape Youngplace](#) opens its doors to the public on November 20. After sitting vacant for more than a decade, the 75,000 square foot century-old former Shaw Street School (180 Shaw Street) has undergone a \$17 million transformation to become the largest cultural institution in the West Queen West neighbourhood.

Exhibitions, chamber music concerts, artist/curator talks, dance classes, workshops, and screenings are among the first offerings available to the public at **Artscape Youngplace** as of next week. The roll-out of events and creative activities will continue well into the New Year, as each of the artists and arts-based organizations — which will include SKETCH, Luminato Festival, Paperhouse Studio, Inspirit Foundation, and Small World Music Centre, among others — take up residence in the building and settle into their new homes. Full descriptions of the artists and organizations at Artscape Youngplace are available in our [downloadable media backgrounder](#). An official opening ceremony will take place at 180 Shaw Street on November 19 from 5:00 to 10:00 pm, with remarks and acknowledgments at 7:30 pm.

Artscape Youngplace will be a busy social gathering place for the building's organizations and artists, their audiences and program participants, community neighbours and members of the general public. The 3,000 square foot first-floor hallway will be transformed into an **Urban Living Lounge** created by local interior design team **Williams Craig Inc.**, and will serve as a "community living room" with free WiFi — a place for openings, readings, live performances and community meetings. The 900 square foot former guidance counselor's office will be one of the liveliest parts of the building in its new role as the **Youngplace Coffee Pub**, a social enterprise with an emphasis on serving local, sustainable and organic fare.

Two exhibitions inaugurate the **Artscape Youngplace Hallway Galleries**, an impressive new public exhibition space consisting of 9,000 square feet of spectacular corridor and stairwell areas across three floors. *Unarchive* and *Stairmasters* are curated by **Heather Nicol**, whose new studio is at Artscape Youngplace. Both exhibitions explore the unique history and architecture of the century-old building.

Stairmasters transforms three stairwells into site-specific vinyl installations by **Debbie Adams, Melissa Fisher, and Seth Scriver**. Each artist activates their staircase — an often ignored architectural zone — in a masterful display of colour and form, inviting viewers on an experiential ascent or descent as they explore *Artscape Youngplace* in its inaugural season. *Stairmasters* runs from November 20, 2013 to March 30, 2014.

Unarchive features works by **Ian Carr-Harris and Yvonne Lammerich, Dave Dymont, Lee Henderson, Nina Levitt and Jessica Vallentin**. The artists were granted access to the rich Givins/Shaw Junior Public



School archival collection of records and data, photographs of classes and teams, trophies and plaques, scrap books and snapshots as the starting point for creative responses in sculpture, installation, assemblage, text and photo based works. *Unarchive* will unfold and develop in synch with the architectural completion of the building, with some elements currently on display, and the full exhibition to be celebrated during its opening vernissage on January 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. A curator's talk and tour takes place on January 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, and the exhibition runs until March 30, 2014.

The Koffler Gallery will open its new space with the exhibition *We're in the Library*, featuring seven Toronto artists engaging the context and history of the new space, formerly the library of the Shaw Street Public School. Curated by **Mona Filip**, *We're in the Library* features new works by **Sara Angelucci, Barbara Astman, Adam David Brown, Michelle Gay, Ido Govrin, Vid Ingelevics** and **Jon Sasaki**.

TYPOLOGY Projects presents its inaugural exhibition, ERRATIC ROOM | LYLA RYE from November 19 to December 19, 2013. Featuring an immersive video installation and new limited edition photo series, *Erratic Room* is an exploration into spatial perception and its often hidden physical and psychological effects. Other TYPOLOGY Projects offerings include a film screening and artist's talk on November 30, a talk with curator **Shani K. Parsons** and artist **Lyla Rye** on December 4, and a holiday button-making workshop with Lyla Rye on December 14.

The Bellwoods Academy of Music will host two concerts by **Elixir Baroque Ensemble**. Their "Elixir Mixers" — chamber music concerts in an intimate setting — happen on December 14 at 8 pm and December 15 at 2 pm. Wine and cheese will be served at the evening performance, coffee and tea at the afternoon event.

Artscape Youngplace will be place to showcase artistic creation, learn about the arts, practice art and design, create art together and connect with the arts community and neighbours. Resident organizations with programs accessible to the public include **College Montrose Children's Place**, offering arts-based learning programs for children and parents; theatre from a uniquely indigenous perspective from **Centre for Indigenous Theatre**; artist talks, exhibitions, screenings and workshops from **TYPOLOGY Projects**; after-school dance classes by artist **Jessica Runge** offered through **Intergalactic Arts Collective**; and classes, workshops and programs offered by **Koffler Centre of the Arts**.

Artscape will also launch its new **Flex Studios** program at Artscape Youngplace, repurposing 4,000 square feet of former classroom space into affordable art studio rentals, where space is shared by artists through memberships that range from hourly passes to unlimited monthly studio time.

Artscape Youngplace is steps away from The Drake Hotel, The Gladstone Hotel, The Theatre Centre, and The Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, as well as many outstanding independent art galleries — all catalytic projects that have helped to transform the area into one of the most vibrant art scenes in



the country. It is the organization's fourth project in West Queen West, which includes Artscape West Queen West, the city's first legal artist live/work space; Parkdale Arts & Cultural Centre, a community cultural hub; and Artscape Triangle Lofts, an innovative below-market ownership and rental artist live/work space.

Complete listings of public events happening at Artscape Youngplace will be available at artscapeyoungplace.ca, a new website from Artscape coming soon.

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The Artscape Youngplace Media Backgrounder provides extensive information on the Artscape Youngplace project, and can be downloaded at <http://torontoartscape.org/artscape-youngplace/media-resources>

Artists and Organizations of Artscape Youngplace:

Organizations: SKETCH, Luminato Festival, Koffler Gallery and Koffler Centre of the Arts, College-Montrose Children's Place & Trinity Spadina Early Years Centre, Centre for Indigenous Theatre, Youngplace Coffee Pub, Inspirit Foundation/Fondation Inspirit, Paperhouse Studio, Intergalactic Arts Collective, Small World Music Centre, TYPOLOGY Projects.

Artists: Ruth Adler, Barbara Astman, Allan Bonner, Eve Egoyan (Eyewitness Studio), Emily Filler, shabnam K.Ghazi (atelier "ascenseur"), Miriam Grenville, Gillian Iles, Vid Ingelevics, Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith (Bellwoods Academy of Music), Heather Nicol, Midi Onodera (Daruma Pictures Inc.), Matthew Schofield.

About Artscape

Artscape is a not-for-profit urban development organization that makes space for creativity and transforms communities.

Canada's leading practitioner in multi-tenant space development for the creative and cultural sector, Artscape develops and manages unique facilities that deliver sustainable and below-market production, rehearsal, exhibition and living space for creative practitioners, entrepreneurs and cultural organizations. Since 1986, we have helped to stimulate some of the city's most creative and vibrant neighbourhoods with dynamic community assets and cultural hubs such as Daniels Spectrum: a cultural



hub in Regent Park, Artscape Wychwood Barns, Artscape Distillery Studios, Artscape Gibraltar Point and multiple projects in the thriving artistic communities of West Queen West and Parkdale.

Artscape is widely recognized as an international leader in creative placemaking, a practice that leverages the power of art, culture and creativity to catalyze change, growth and transformation of communities. Our success is driven by our ability to work effectively across disciplines to align values, leadership, investment and public policy. We work constantly to expand our portfolio, share our expertise and advance the field, offering training, mentoring and coaching, and learning opportunities through Artscape's Creative Placemaking Lab. Artscape offers countless tools, case studies and how-to guides on www.artscapediy.org. For more information on Artscape visit www.torontoartscape.org.