Queen Street’s new creative community: Artscape Youngplace

West Queen Street West is now home to the newest creative community by Artscape!

Artscape Youngplace opened Tuesday night with more than 1,500 people in attendance. Located in the more than 100-year-old schoolhouse located at 180 Shaw St, Youngplace has undergone a $17+ million renovation to create the multi-use creative cultural hub.
It was amazing to be there for the opening and to walk through the various studios and gallery spaces that are now being used by artists and organizations on Queen West. The building, which is 75,000 square feet, is now the largest in the Artscape Portfolio, which includes Daniels Spectrum in Regent Park and the Artscape Wychwood Barns.

Youngplace is the new home of dancers, musicians, artists of all forms and organizations, many of whom will also be offering classes, workshops and more to the community at large as well as providing an outstanding performance and exhibition space.

"The result is better than we could have imagined. Artscape Youngplace is another of the important Artscape projects that connect and transform creativity into positive social change for the benefit of us all," said David Young, chair of The Michael Young Family Foundation whose $2 million lead donation allowed Artscape to purchase the historic Shaw Street
The Michael Young Family Foundation was honoured by Artscape for its contribution by naming the new community Artscape Youngplace.

"We feel privileged to be involved," said Young.

One feature of Youngplace is the Urban Living Lounge, 3,000 square feet of space on the first floor that will serve as a “community living room” by day and a performance/gallery/readings/openings space by night. This Urban Living Lounge is the result of cooperation between six leaders from Toronto’s development industry: Castlepoint Numa and Cityzen Development Group, First Capital Realty Inc, Lifetime Developments, The Remington Group Inc. and The R.P. Bratty Family Foundation, TAS Shaping Beautiful School.
Cities and URBANCORP.

"Artscape is proud to have come together with the Urban Living Lounge donors in one such partnership and is very grateful for their philanthropic contributions, which have facilitated the creation of this fantastic gift to the West Queen West community," said Tim Jones, Artscape president and CEO.

It was great to see so many families at this launch for the new creative space. If Artscape Youngplace is anything at all like the Daniels Spectrum, then all of Queen Street will benefit from this amazing new installation.

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