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## Artists and Organizations on the Move to their New Home at Artscape Youngplace

### 75,000 sq. ft. Community Cultural Hub set to open November 19 in Toronto's West Queen West Neighbourhood

TORONTO, September 30, 2013

A group Canada's most distinguished artists and arts-based organizations are packing boxes and getting ready to move into their new home at **Artscape Youngplace** in preparation for the official public opening on November 19, 2013. After sitting vacant for more than a decade, the century-old former Shaw Street School (180 Shaw Street) has undergone a \$17 million transformation to become a new community cultural hub. Artscape Youngplace will be the largest cultural institution in the West Queen West area, one of the country's most creative neighbourhoods and a major centre for contemporary art in Canada. At 75,000 square feet, Artscape Youngplace is the largest project in Artscape's 27-year history.

Artscape Youngplace is the latest community cultural hub project to be developed and managed by Artscape. The vision for it was built from the ground up in the West Queen West community in a process similar to the one used for Daniels Spectrum in Regent Park that opened last September. At 75,000 square feet, Artscape Youngplace will be the largest cultural institution in one of Canada's most creative neighbourhoods. Artscape purchased the former Shaw Street School from the Toronto District School Board in 2010, thanks to a generous lead gift from The Michael Young Family Foundation.

"Intensification of development in highly creative parts of the city usually results in the displacement of artists from the places that they have helped to enliven," said Artscape President and CEO Tim Jones. "Artscape Youngplace is helping to turn the tide of the 'SoHo effect' in West Queen West, and we are proud to be working with a broad coalition including the urban development community to help make this happen."

Artscape Youngplace will be a new social heart in the West Queen West neighbourhood—a place to showcase artistic creation, learn about the arts, practice art and design, create art together and connect with the arts community and neighbours. From painting to music, inter-disciplinary practices to digital arts, culinary arts to installation, Artscape Youngplace's organizations and artists represent a vast range of artistic excellence, with many planning to share their creative gifts with the community through exhibitions, performances, classes, workshops and more:

#### Organizations and Collectives

- **SKETCH**, a community arts initiative engaging young people who live homeless or on the margins to experience the transformative power of the arts
- **Luminato Festival**, the international multi-arts festival for people open to having art change their outlook on the world

- **Koffler Gallery and Koffler Centre of the Arts**, a contemporary Jewish cultural institution hosting groundbreaking exhibitions of contemporary Canadian and international art
- **College-Montrose Children's Place & Trinity-Spadina Ontario Early Years Centre**, a flexible and free early learning and family resource centre
- **Centre for Indigenous Theatre**, a training and professional development centre for emerging and established Native theatre artists
- **Inspirite Foundation/Fondation Inspirite**, a national grant-making organization that supports young people in building a more inclusive and pluralist Canada
- **Paperhouse Studio**, an open-access papermaking studio offering workshops and exhibitions, lectures and demonstrations, as well as custom paper projects
- **Blackbird VFX**, a visual effects, design and film studio housing a collective of digital artists and animators
- **Intergalactic Arts Collective**, a group of interdisciplinary performing artists that focus on the research and presentation of new performance work
- **Small World Music Centre**, a world music hub presenting artists from every corner of the globe
- **TYPOLOGY Projects**, a non-profit space devoted to artistic and curatorial research, collaboration, and experimentation in the production of exhibitions, editions, and related events

## Individual Artists

- **Ruth Adler**, digital artist, painter, printmaker and textile designer
- **Barbara Astman**, photographer, digital media artist and art educator
- **Allan Bonner**, journalist and author
- **Eve Egoyan (Earwitness Studio)**, pianist
- **Emily Filler**, painter
- **Shabnam K. Ghazi (atelier "ascenseur")**, sculptor, ceramic artist and multi-media designer
- **Miriam Grenville**, textile artist, designer and art educator
- **Gillian Iles**, visual artist and art educator
- **Vid Ingelevics**, visual artist, curator, writer and art educator
- **Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith (Bellwoods Academy of Music)**, violinist and art educator
- **Heather Nicol**, multi-disciplinary artist, curator and art educator
- **Midi Onodera (Daruma Pictures Inc.)**, filmmaker
- **Matthew Schofield**, visual artist

*\*See Backgrounder below for more information about the organizations and artists of Artscape Youngplace*

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 become an **Urban Living Lounge**, serving as a "community living room" by day and a place for openings, readings, live performances and community meetings by night. The **Hallway Galleries** will create an impressive new public exhibition space in the ample corridors, spanning 9,350 square feet of spectacular hallway and stairwell space on three floors. 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.

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.

"As the inaugural Managing Director of Artscape Youngplace, I will be working hard to strengthen ties in West Queen West. It's very exciting to be part of the team breathing new life into this community gem, and to help kick-start its incredible potential as a resource and home to art and creativity, said Natasha Mytnowych, Managing Director of Artscape Youngplace. "I invite everyone to join us for our public opening in November and hope they make Artscape Youngplace a regular stop once we're up and running. This project has been a huge community effort thus far, and we look forward to launching Artscape Youngplace as a platform for the creativity in all of us to thrive."

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.

A global leader in creative placemaking, Artscape has been instrumental in the revitalization of some of Toronto's most important creative communities, and is behind such game-changing projects as Daniels Spectrum, Artscape Wychwood Barns, Artscape Distillery Studios and Artscape Gibraltar Point, among others. Including Artscape Youngplace, Artscape has nine properties in operation in a portfolio of over 415,000 square feet of space. In 2012, our projects served over 1,340 artists and cultural workers who work and/or live in Artscape spaces. That number is growing with the addition of Artscape Youngplace.

The Shaw Street School, a heritage-listed building originally constructed in 1914, was declared surplus by the Toronto District School Board in 2001. With the school's operations transferred to the adjacent Givins/Shaw Jr. Public School, the Shaw Street School was vacant for nearly a decade. In 2006, the Toronto District School Board hired Artscape to conduct a feasibility study of its potential reuse. This study, which included extensive community consultation, demonstrated strong community support for repurposing the site as a centre for arts and community programming.

A Community Advisory Committee of representatives from Artscape's Board of Directors, the local residential neighbourhood, the greater West Queen West community, Artscape tenants and the Toronto arts community at large is established to help inform the design and vision of Artscape Youngplace. The committee has assisted in selecting the artists and organizations of Artscape Youngplace, and participates in sharing information with the community on the facility's progress.

Community meetings conducted by Artscape have given voice to the desires and priorities of local neighbours, community members and parents of children at Givins/Shaw Jr. Public School. The Artscape Youngplace model reflects Artscape's goals and values for new community development and creative city building.

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**Press Kit:** available at [torontoartscape.org/artscape-youngplace/media-resources](http://torontoartscape.org/artscape-youngplace/media-resources)

**Keywords/tags:** Creative placemaking, arts and culture, Artscape Youngplace, Flex Studios, creativity, Toronto art scene, making space for creativity, 180 Shaw Street, revitalization, city-building

## Backgrounder

### About the Organizations and Artists at Artscape Youngplace

**SKETCH Working Arts** (9,078 square feet): SKETCH will transform the lower level into a number of separate studios dedicated to interconnecting arts practices and opportunities in visual arts and crafts, music, sculpture, and digital media. SKETCH's administrative offices will be located on the second floor.

**Luminato Festival** (6,541 square feet): The Luminato Festival is the international multi-arts festival for people open to having art change their outlook on the world. For ten days each June, the Luminato Festival transforms theatres, parks and public spaces across the city and creates a home for artists to come play, share and create. Artscape Youngplace houses Luminato Festival's administrative offices.

**Koffler Gallery and Koffler Centre of the Arts** (4,598 square feet): Over 30+ years, the Koffler Gallery has earned a reputation for groundbreaking exhibitions of contemporary Canadian and international art, much of it installation based and newly commissioned work. It has become a prominent voice in the Canadian art scene often presenting emerging artists and engaging with artists to cross genres. Reflecting diverse cultural, material and aesthetic orientations, the Koffler Gallery explores the contemporary Jewish experience within the context of the broader community.

College-Montrose Children's Place & Trinity-Spadina Ontario Early Years Centre (4,105 square feet): In partnership with diverse families and changing communities, College-Montrose Children's Place provides flexible and free early learning and family resource programs and services for children, parents and caregivers in safe and stimulating environments. College-Montrose Children's Place & Trinity-Spadina Ontario Early Years Centre at Artscape Youngplace will provide opportunities for adults to gain new skills, access resources, share experiences and interact with their children and other adults through play-based activities.

Centre for Indigenous Theatre (3,660 square feet): The Centre for Indigenous Theatre embraces the spirit, energy and inspiration derived from the culture, values and traditions of Indigenous people. From these roots they seek to elaborate a contemporary Indigenous performance culture through training and professional development opportunities for emerging and established Native theatre artists. From their space at Artscape Youngplace, the Centre for Indigenous Theatre will run multiple programs devoted to developing contemporary performance skills from a distinctively indigenous cultural foundation.

Inspirit Foundation/Fondation Inspirit (2,046 square feet): Inspirit Foundation is a national grant-making organization that supports young people (aged 18 to 30) in building a more inclusive and pluralist Canada.

Paperhouse Studio (1,053 square feet): Paperhouse Studio is an open-access papermaking studio offering workshops and exhibitions, lectures and demonstrations, as well as custom paper projects.

Blackbird VFX (1,053 square feet): Blackbird VFX is a visual effects, design and film studio housing a collective of digital artists and animators.

Intergalactic Arts Collective (1,028 square feet): Intergalactic Arts Collective's studio at Artscape Youngplace will be a hub for innovation in performance and a center for artistic research and performance, teaching and coaching.

Small World Music Centre (981 square feet): The Small World Music Centre at Artscape Youngplace will be a world music hub, featuring professional-quality sound, staging, lighting, telescopic seating and recording capability to host intimate concerts, workshops, incubator residencies and multimedia productions to engage a diverse range of artists and cultural communities, run by the Small World Music Society.

TYPOLOGY Projects (546 square feet): TYPOLOGY Projects is a not-for-profit project space devoted to artistic and curatorial research, collaboration, and experimentation in the production of exhibitions, editions, and related events. With a thematic focus on critically engaged, collaborative and cross-disciplinary practices, underrepresented artists and art forms, and community outreach and education in art and exhibition-making, TYPOLOGY Projects engages and informs audiences from all walks of life.

Ruth Adler: Ruth Adler is a digital artist, painter, printmaker and textile designer who has exhibited in Canada and internationally since the 1980s. In Toronto her work is represented by the Lonsdale Gallery and in New York by Jim Kempner Fine Art.

Barbara Astman: Barbara Astman, RCA, specializes in a hybrid of photography and new media; often using her own body as object and subject, merging art and technology. She is a faculty member at OCADU and is represented by the Corkin Gallery in Toronto.

Allan Bonner: Dr. Allan Bonner is a renowned journalist, communications strategist and trainer with extensive interests in civil society and the arts. He is a regular TV commentator, using his background in political economy, education, business, risk, disaster and crisis management. His research has taken him around the world, where he has worked with heads of government, CEOs and diplomats. He is the author of numerous books.

Eve Egoyan (Earwitness Studio): Eve Egoyan is a pianist whose ongoing performance interests encompass extremely contrasting sensibilities; she also explores other art forms and technologies in relation to the piano. Eve is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (FRSC) and one of fifty Canadian performers and conductors given and designation of "CMC Ambassador" by the Canadian Music Centre.

Emily Filler: Emily Filler is a full-time painter who works mainly in oils and acrylics. She is currently represented by galleries in Toronto, Ottawa, Canmore (AB), Kelowna (BC), Baie-St-Paul (QC) and Charleston, South Carolina.

Shabnam K. Ghazi (atelier "ascenseur"): Shabnam K. Ghazi is a sculptor, ceramic artist and multimedia designer who has exhibited her work nationally and internationally.

Miriam Grenville: Miriam Grenville is a textile artist, designer and art educator. She creates both large-format and small-scale works intimate in meaning.

Gillian Iles: Gillian Iles is a visual artist who has exhibited locally and internationally in cities such as New York, Chicago, Miami, Montreal and Toronto. She is a founding member of two Toronto co-operative artist-run galleries and is currently part of Redhead Gallery. She teaches at the Ontario College of Art and Design, Sheridan College and the Toronto School of Art.

Vid Ingelevics: Vid Ingelevics is an established artist, independent curator and writer, and a teacher in Ryerson University's School of Image Arts. His work is often concerned with the relationship between photography, memory and history, and his projects have been exhibited and/or published in Canada, the United States, Europe and Australia.

Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith (Bellwoods Academy of Music): Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith, co-founder of the Bellwoods Academy of Music, performs frequently on both modern and baroque violin with the Aradia Baroque Ensemble, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Opera Atelier, Orchestra London and the Hamilton Philharmonic.

Heather Nicol: Heather Nicol is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice includes creating new media audio-sculptures, sound and light installation works, objects, as well as independent curating.

Midi Onodera (Daruma Pictures Inc.): Midi Onodera is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker who has been directing, producing and writing films for over thirty years. She has over twenty-five independent short films to her credit as well as a theatrical feature film and several video shorts. She is the owner of Daruma Pictures Inc.

Matthew Schofield: Matthew Schofield is an artist whose work has been exhibited nationally and internationally since 1996 in New York, Brooklyn, Chicago, Miami, Toronto and Florence. In 2001, Matthew was nominated for a Primetime Emmy, and in 2006 he was nominated for a group VFX Oscar for his digital matte painting work in film.

## 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 [Artscape DIY](#). For more information on Artscape visit [artscape.ca](http://artscape.ca).

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