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Celebrate Toronto's Creative Community

Toronto Arts Council Foundation Now Accepting Nominations for 2009 Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2009 Toronto Arts Council Foundation Awards** which celebrate artists, cultural professionals and arts supporters from every creative discipline who have made significant contributions to Toronto's artistic and cultural life. Nomination forms, criteria and awards adjudication policies for the 2009 Toronto Arts Council Foundation Awards are available at <http://www.torontoarts.org/awards.html>. **The deadline for nominations is Friday, July 17, 2009 at 5 pm.**

The **2009 Toronto Arts Council Foundation Awards** are:

Arts for Youth Award – a \$15,000 cash prize established in 2007 by Martha Burns, Jim Fleck and Jim Pitblado, this award celebrates an individual, collective or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to engaging Toronto youth in the arts. Previous winners include SKETCH Working Arts for Street-Involved and Homeless Youth (2008) and Arts for Children (2007).

The Globe and Mail Toronto Business for the Arts Award – recognizes a Toronto-based business that has made a significant contribution to the arts in Toronto. Established in 2006, this award is presented in partnership with Business for the Arts. The recipient will receive an original work of art created by Nobuo Kubota. Previous winners include Torys LLP (2008), Robert Lowrey's Piano Experts (2007) and CIBC Mellon (2006).

RBC Emerging Artist Award – a \$5,000 cash prize presented to an emerging Toronto artist working in any medium or performing arts discipline in celebration of current accomplishments and future potential. Established in 2006 by RBC Foundation, this award is intended to support the development or completion of new work. Previous winners include Weyni Mengesha (2008), d'bi.young.anitafrika (2007) and Natasha Mytnowych (2006).

Muriel Sherrin Award for International Achievement in Dance – a \$10,000 cash prize presented to an artist or creator who has made a contribution to the cultural life of Toronto through outstanding achievement in dance. The recipient will also have participated in international initiatives, including touring, studying abroad and participating in artist exchanges. Previous winners include Peter Chin (2006), Danny Grossman (2002) and David Earle (1998).

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Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award – a \$5,000 cash prize sponsored by Margo Bindhardt and Toronto Arts Council Foundation. This award is presented biennially to an individual who has demonstrated creative cultural leadership in the development of arts and culture in Toronto. Administrators, volunteers, artists and creators are eligible for consideration. Previous winners include Franco Boni (2007), Layne Coleman (2002) and Tom Hendry (2000).

Each year, a 12-member jury comprised of practitioners of the arts, organizers, programmers, producers, curators, critics, commentators and lay specialists is appointed; each juror is chosen based on their expertise, prestige, sense of history and perspective, credibility and experience. The jury will review candidate profiles and make a recipient recommendation for each award to Toronto Arts Council Foundation Board of Directors, which will make final determinations.

Winners of the **2009 Toronto Arts Council Foundation Awards** will be announced on **Thursday, October 15, 2009** at the Mayor's Arts Awards Lunch.

*Incorporated in 1995 as a sister organization to Toronto Arts Council, **Toronto Arts Council Foundation** has a two-fold mission: to increase awareness of the value that artists and arts organizations bring to the city of Toronto and to increase resources for the arts. Toronto Arts Council Foundation administers a number of programs to further these goals and provides an opportunity for individuals, foundations and corporations to support a broad spectrum of initiatives and arts disciplines in the City of Toronto through tax-deductible contributions.*

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