

Mayor

DAVID MILLER


It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first annual Mayor's Arts Awards Lunch.

Being Mayor of a city that is home to artistic excellence and unlimited creativity is an honour and a privilege. Toronto's artists are at the heart of what makes our city great. Their talent, drive and inspiration have revitalized our streets, provoked our imaginations and broadened our perspectives. From a rollicking street festival to a dance in the park, major stage production to quirky sculpture exhibition, chamber music concert to international book-reading, our artists help us define who we are and where we are going.

Every year, Toronto invests over \$14 million in its artists, both directly and through the Toronto Arts Council. In 2006, the City launched TO Live with Culture in celebration of the value artists bring to our city. I am delighted that Toronto Arts Council Foundation also chose this year to launch the inaugural Mayor's Arts Awards Lunch to give us all the opportunity to come together in appreciation of the city's artists.

In addition to honouring our award recipients and the many exceptional artists in the room, this lunch is also designed to recognize others whose unflagging efforts have helped make sure that more of us are able to see, hear, attend and participate in the city's great works of art. The philanthropists, whose funds contribute so much to the work and to our ability to see it, the administrators and technicians who toil outside the limelight, and the policy makers and politicians who smooth the path to approvals, all have a huge role in the city's arts production. I am delighted to share the room with all of you who show such vision and leadership in making Toronto a creative city.

On behalf of Toronto City Council I would like to welcome you to lunch, thank you all for coming and invite you to continue to enjoy the work of our artists.



David Miller
Mayor, City of Toronto

