

TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

For Immediate Release

Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation Makes \$1M Donation, Leading the Toronto Biennial of Art's Roster of Generous Supporters

Toronto, Canada, April 30, 2019 -- Today the Board of Directors of the [Toronto Biennial of Art](#) (TBA/the Biennial) confirmed their roster of lead funders, patrons, and partners, as they prepare for the inaugural, citywide event opening September 21, 2019, and running through December 1, 2019. Programmed along Toronto's waterfront, TBA is presenting exhibitions, installations, performances, talks, workshops, panels, and learning opportunities by more than 90 participants, hailing from over 40 places of origin. All of the works in Toronto's first Biennial, which include 20 new commissions, address the Biennial's central theme, "In Relation," and respond to the context of Toronto's past and present to imagine new futures. TBA is expected to attract upwards of 400,000 visitors to the metro area and is poised to become one of North America's preeminent international visual arts biennials.

"The inaugural Toronto Biennial of Art supporters represent an incredibly special group," said Toronto Biennial of Art Founder and Executive Director Patrizia Libralato. "Demonstrating the vision to commit to a new event at the ground level requires tremendous trust. We are humbled and elated by people's confidence in our project, and profoundly grateful to the people, partners, companies, and organizations that have generously provided both financial and in-kind support. We cannot wait to share this bold new event with both the local community and the world."

The **Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation**, TBA's Founding Signature Patron, leads a host of supporters who recognize that the Biennial and its ongoing programming will enhance the culturally diverse and rising global identity of Toronto. The Foundation is making a \$1 million (CAD) donation to help sustain the Biennial's long-term success.

"Our family is delighted to support the Toronto Biennial of Art, surely to become a landmark event in one of the most diverse cities in the world," said Foundation Chairman Pierre Lassonde. "Art is a universal language and its expression—through public installations, exhibitions, and dynamic programming—will make this Biennial an event that we hope will touch millions of people."

Founding Premiere Patron **TD Bank Group** is supporting *Co-Relations*, a collaborative public program that investigates questions of livability, access, alternative narratives, nourishment, and community care. Events will include artist talks, performances, participatory games, civic

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conversations, youth-engaged projects, workshops, and communal meals. *Co-Relations* will launch during the Biennial and remain active after TBA 2019 closes to cultivate ongoing connections with collaborators and participants. All *Co-Relations* events will be accessible and free of charge. A full program detailing partners, sites, and events will be released in June 2019.

“This first edition of the Toronto Biennial is an exciting and promising moment for the art sector. It has the potential to build bridges among local, national, and international arts organizations, and provide the general public with free and accessible shared experiences with unique, diverse, and inclusive artistic forms of expression. Through The Ready Commitment, TD’s corporate citizenship platform, we are thrilled to sponsor the Biennial’s *Co-Relations* program where our funding will support the creativity, contemporary culture, and innovation that is at the core of Toronto’s DNA,” said Andrea Barrack, Global Head, Sustainability and Corporate Citizenship, TD Bank Group.

Additional event supporters include:

Government Funders

City of Toronto; City of Mississauga; Canada Council for the Arts; Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF); Ontario Arts Council; and Toronto Arts Council.

Founding Contributors

Dickinson Wright LLP; The Gas Company; PARTISANS; Puncture Design; Small Arms Inspection Building; Toronto Union; and Waterfront Toronto.

Promotional Partners

Akimbo; Bike Share Toronto, Canadian Art; Cineplex Media; St. Joseph Communications; Tourism Toronto; and Toronto Transit Commission.

Founding Innovators

CIBC; Mine Canadian Malartic; and Polar Foundation.

Founding Visionaries

Miranda Hubbs; Michelle Koerner & Kevin Doyle; Lisa & Matthew Melchior; Menkes Development Ltd.; Theresa & Seth Mersky; Newpoint Developments; and Partners in Art.

Founding Presenters

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Founding Contemporaries

David & Carol Appel; Paul & Emma Bain; Max & Heather Gottlieb; Laurie Hay & Doug Kellar; Elisa Nuyten & David Dime; Onex Corporation; The Gerald Schwartz & Heather Reisman Foundation; Jay Smith & Laura Rapp; Jack Weinbaum Family Foundation; Woodbridge Company Ltd.; Susan Wortzman; and the Michael Young Family Foundation.

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Curatorial Vision 2019: In Relation

Curated by Candice Hopkins and Tairone Bastien, the 2019 Toronto Biennial of Art takes up the question "What does it mean to be in relation?" This question invites us to contemplate different kinds of "relations" and how they forge communion and ecosystems, while also pushing us to consider the ways in which we are out of relation—out of synch, disconnected, alienated. Grounded in the Indigenous, immigrant, and settler histories that have shaped what we now call Toronto, the inaugural Biennial asks us to reexamine the past to project alternative futures.

About the Toronto Biennial of Art

Launching in fall 2019, the Toronto Biennial of Art is a new international contemporary visual arts event that is as culturally connected and diverse as Toronto itself. For 10 weeks every two years, the city will be transformed by exciting exhibitions, talks, and performances that reflect our local context while engaging with the most pressing issues of our time. In an effort to make contemporary art available to everyone, TBA's free, citywide programming aims to galvanize citizens, bridge communities, and contribute to global conversations from a distinctly Canadian perspective.

For more information, visit: torontobiennial.org, or follow @torontobiennial and #TObiennial19 on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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