The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery’s Power Youth Outreach Program receives Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant and introduces their Fall 2017 & Winter 2018 Power Youth Artists-in-Residence

The Power Plant is pleased to announce that Power Youth has received a Grow Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in order to sustain and expand this key outreach program from 2017 to 2020.

In addition to providing vital funds for Power Youth, which provides free contemporary art programming for youth in priority neighbourhoods, as of Fall 2017 the Grow Grant will allow the program to double from two locations with two Power Youth Artists-in-Residence, to four locations with four Artists-in-Residence.

About Power Youth

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery’s Power Youth outreach program provides youth with a better understanding of contemporary art practices as well as access to cultural resources, all while giving them an opportunity to discuss the issues and topics that impact their lives.

Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Dasha Shenkman Foundation, this year’s Power Youth will expand from two partnering locations—Boys & Girls Clubs of Weston-Mount Dennis, Humber Clubhouse and Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs, Spruce Clubhouse—to include the Toronto Public Library’s Sanderson Branch Youth Hub in Alexandra Park as well as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence Heights, Neptune Clubhouse. Throughout the 2016-17 year, Power Youth equipped over 50 youth with new tools for self-expression by providing them with opportunities to gain skills in creativity, communication and collaboration. The program strives to enrich the lives of community members and to extend cultural understanding beyond the gallery walls.

About the Power Youth Artists-in-Residence

Power Youth’s Artists-in-Residence are selected directly by youth from the program’s partnering communities. Six artists were selected to interview for the two clubhouses—either Regent Park & Alexandra Park OR Weston-Mount Dennis & Lawrence Heights—and each clubhouse then voted on artists based on a number of criteria. The selection process is a unique feature of the program, aiming to highlight the importance of the youth’s proactive participation and foster ownership and continued engagement in the program.
**Fall 2017 Artists-in-Residence**

*karen darricades* is an artist, educator and writer whose multidisciplinary community arts practice aims to educate on the role and function of media, animate a variety of content, tools and tactics available to message-creators and facilitate the creation of works of art driven by individual and community voice.

Inspired by Sammy Baloji and Filip de Boeck’s *Urban Now: City Life in Congo* and Amalia Pica’s *ears to speak of*, darricades will help youth from Regent Park and Alexandra Park to document their perspective on their changing environments through photography and new media, and together they will create site-specific installations to communicate their hopes and dreams for their communities.

*Paula "BOMBA" Gonzalez-Ossa* is a retired graffiti writer who now produces large-scale public art murals with teams of artists from the communities where she paints. She incorporates graffiti style mural production techniques with contemporary technology i.e., video and photography to illustrate the process of building on a wall.

Inspired by Amalia Pica’s *ears to speak of* and Michael Landy’s *DEMONSTRATION*, Gonzalez-Ossa will work with youth from Weston-Mount Dennis and Lawrence Heights to build a wall-based installation that illustrates the words that represent their collective identity while creating messages that subvert the dominant narratives of their communities.

**Winter 2018 Artists-in-Residence**

*Jacqueline Comrie* is a mural artist and a recipient of the 2017 ArtStarts Platform A Micro Grant from the Toronto Arts Council. The Colour Wheel Project is her revitalization initiative that transforms common indoor and outdoor areas in Toronto and abroad into uplifting environments, with the purpose of alleviating the high level of anxiety experienced as a result of the present social issues we face in our communities.

Inspired by the theme of ‘repair’ in the upcoming exhibition by Kader Attia, Comrie will be bringing her Colour Wheel Project to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Weston-Mount Dennis and Lawrence Heights to produce community murals that transform their environments.

*Loveleen Kang* is a versatile non-fiction storyteller. She draws from her past personal, academic, and employment experiences in non-profit and community organizing to create multi-dimensional stories that highlight the voices of those that may be underrepresented. As a workshop facilitator, Kang has worked with young people to create short documentary films, prepare them to speak to the media & explore personal healing.

In response to upcoming exhibitions by Emeka Ogboh and Kader Attia, Kang will work with youth from Regent Park and Alexandra Park to create short
documentary films about their local landscapes in order to explore personal healing.

**Fall 2017 Artist-in-Residence Finalists**

**Isa Benn** is an Award winning Screenwriter, Playwright, Filmmaker and Multimedia/Disciplinary Visual Artist, Isa Benn, is currently based out of Toronto and New York.

**Jen Chin** is a professional visual artist and educator who has lead numerous youth focused, community arts programs across Toronto and Ontario with a variety of organizations such as: Vibe Arts and The Royal Ontario Museum; The City of Toronto; and Canon Canada.

**SoJin Chun** is a Toronto-based artist and community facilitator. Through the medium of video art and experimental storytelling, Chun reveals everyday stories of immigration and cross-cultural identities.

**Jennifer La Fontaine and Emmy Pantin/Community Story Strategies** have worked with groups and institutions since 2012. Together they help to tell stories about issues including immigration, disability, violence, homophobia, climate change, and traditional Indigenous knowledge.

**Winter 2018 Artist-in-Residence Finalists**

**Kyla Brown** is a Toronto based artist, educator and writer. She works in a project driven practice that includes community based works, subtle public interventions, drawing installation and video works.

**Sarah Couture McPhail** is a visual artist with a broad range of crafting and art making skills that include digital arts, photography, embroidery, painting, printmaking and ceramics. She has a keen interest in inclusive collaborative arts projects that encourage kids and adults to examine their surroundings and learn crafting skills.

**Michael Vickers** is a Toronto based artist with a practice that works in the space between sculpture, painting and installation. He investigates the limits of different materials and presentation methods such as painted, curled and bent forms made of various aluminums and steels; etched and engraved stone and marble works; and installations.

**Kendra Yee** is a multidisciplinary artist and designer from Toronto. She works on a variety of projects from programming, workshops, collaborative shows and interactive installations.

**POWER YOUTH FUNDERS:**
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Dasha Shenkman Foundation
POWER YOUTH PARTNERS:
Boys & Girls Clubs of Weston-Mount Dennis
Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence Heights
Toronto Public Library

More on Power Youth: bit.ly/1TxkkFj
More on The Power Plant’s Upcoming Exhibitions:
thepowerplant.org/Exhibitions/Upcoming-Exhibitions.aspx

About The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery

The Power Plant is Canada’s leading public gallery devoted exclusively to contemporary visual art. It is a vital forum for the advanced artistic culture of our time that offers an exceptional facility and professional support to diverse living artists while engaging equally diverse audiences in their work. The Power Plant pursues its activities through exhibitions, publications and public programming that incorporate other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art.

Director: Gaëtane Verna

ALL YEAR, ALL FREE
presented by BMO FINANCIAL GROUP

Providing as many people as possible with access to these programs and events remains The Power Plant’s top priority. The initiative leading these efforts is a renewed partnership with BMO Financial Group, whose support of the ALL YEAR, ALL FREE initiative is vital to expanding and diversifying audiences by eliminating the cost of admission to its exhibition program.

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