The Power Plant announces the Winter 2015 Artists-in-Residence for its Power Youth Program generously supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and additional funds from the Toronto Arts Council.

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery is pleased to introduce the Power Youth Artists-in-Residence, Ekow Nimako and Nadijah Robinson. Ekow Nimako is appointed the new Artist-in-Residence serving our continuing partnership with the St. Alban’s Boys and Girls Club of Weston Mount Dennis and Nadijah Robinson will help to launch our new partnership with the Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club in Regent Park.

Power Youth connects with teens in these neighbourhoods by providing offsite contemporary art studio programs at Boys and Girls Clubs and access to The Power Plant’s Exhibitions and Programming. The program provides youth with new tools for self-expression and allows them the opportunity to gain skills in creativity, communication and collaboration. By connecting artists with diverse youth in meaningful engagement, we strive to enrich the lives of our community members and extend cultural understanding beyond the gallery walls. Power Youth is made possible through the generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and additional funds form the Toronto Arts Council.

Ekow Nimako was born in Montreal in 1979 and studied Fine Arts at York University. He currently lives and works in Toronto. An avid builder since childhood, Nimako’s first LEGO® installation Aviaraeddon (2013), depicted the fragile relationship between war, destruction and the endangerment of nature by displaying over thirty species of birds in a weaponized aerial environment. His most recent solo exhibition Building Black presented at Daniel Spectrum Artscape, Toronto (2014) investigated the on-going complexities of black identity with artworks and narratives that draw from various racial, historical and folkloric elements. Nimako’s Power Youth residency “Building Beyond: Legacy 3015” extends upon the theme of Building Black and explores the future of black culture. Youth will have the opportunity to explore their future legacies and the future of their community through collage, photography and LEGO®.
Nadijah Robinson is a Toronto based multidisciplinary artist inspired by resilience, justice and the infinite. Robinson received her BFA from the University of Ottawa and her BEd from OISE, University of Toronto. She is continually rewriting herself and her communities into history, and in the process redefining history itself. As both an artist and educator, she seeks to increase access to Contemporary Art spaces and discourse, in order to expand creative capacity and available platforms for marginalized groups, but also to transform Contemporary Art milieus into socially and practically relevant spaces. Robinson’s Power Youth Residency “Our Lives Matter” will focus on current social justice issues. Through collage, graphic design and mural art, youth will explore dignity, love for community and what makes our lives matter.

About the Power Plant
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 though exhibitions, publications and public programming that incorporates other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art.

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