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The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery’s Power Youth Outreach Program introduces their Fall 2018 Power Youth Artists-in-Residence

About Power Youth

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery’s Power Youth outreach program helps youth gain a better understanding of contemporary art practices and awareness of cultural resources, while giving them an opportunity to discuss the issues impacting their lives.

Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Dasha Shenkman, Power Youth is entering the second year of its Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant. This year we will continues to connect with youth four Toronto neighbourhoods, by providing them offsite contemporary art studio programs at Boys and Girls Clubs locations, as well as continued access to The Power Plant’s Exhibitions. In the first year of its Grow Grant, Power Youth reached over 100 youth through weekly programs and welcomed nearly 200 visitors to our Power Youth Spring Exhibition at the Harbourfront Centre in May 2018.

About the Power Youth Artists-in-Residence

Power Youth’s Artists-in-Residence are selected directly by the youth participants from the program’s partnering communities. From 17-20 September 2018, youth from our four partner clubhouses interviewed seven different artists, two artists at each site, and then voted on artists based on a number of criteria. The selection process is a unique feature of the program, and aims to highlight the importance of the youth’s proactive participation, and foster ownership and continued engagement in the program.

Fall 2018 Artists-in-Residence

Boys & Girls Clubs of Weston-Mount Dennis, Humber Clubhouse

Lee “Lethal” Pham is an Artist and Producer. Known in the breaking community as Lethal, he is a fifth generation member of world-renowned b-boy crew the Supernaturalz. He is also a part of Toronto-based contemporary company The Chimera Project. He has proudly represented Canada on television and stages across the world. He passionately teaches breaking and is determined to positively engage communities at a global level. As a producer he works in the film, event, and entertainment industry.
From 24 September to 17 December, Pham will teach youth at Humber Clubhouse the positive essence of hip-hop culture. The program will relate directly to youth by re-enforcing positive life choices, developing media literacy, creating self-confidence and providing skills that they can use in all of their life pursuits. A unique curriculum has been created to give our youth an outlet of expression. In January, youth will have an opportunity to shine in front of their peers in a community dancing event, and in doing so; they will encourage others to make similar positive constructive choices.

Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs, Spruce Clubhouse & TP Loblaws at St. Mary’s Catholic School

Matthew-Ray Jones aka “Testament” is a connoisseur of anything and everything involving words. From poetry, spoken word and emceeing to facilitating, hosting and keynoting, Testament has been using his natural speaking abilities to inspire audiences for over 15 years. As an artist educator for Unity Charity, Jones has performed and taught all over Canada. He has recorded three albums to date and shared stages with Talib Kweli, Naughty by Nature, Biz Markie, GZA, Kardinal Official, Saukrates, Rich Kidd and more. Jones uses his passion for words, art and life to motivate, inspire and lead.

From 25 September to 19 December, Jones will be working with youth from our two Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs sites (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) to discover the power of words, music and sounds. This workshop series will aim to inspire youth to tell their stories through both written and spoken word. Each week, youth will explore a new element of writing, combined with music and sound to learn how to create expressive pieces. The program will provide youth the skill set to prepare them for a final showcase of their work in the style and medium of their choosing. In January, youth will have an opportunity to share their performances with their family, friends and Boys & Girls Clubs community.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence Heights, Neptune Clubhouse

Chelsea Woolley is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada’s Playwriting Program. Her work has earned recognition through a number of national and provincial playwriting competitions. She is a member of Nightwood Theatre’s Write from the Hip program, and the New Creation Unit with Theatre Direct. Woolley is also one of three writers to be honoured with the 2018 Ellen Ross Stuart Prize and is working in association with the Tarragon Theatre, the Blyth Festival and Hart House Theatre on a new piece of Canadian theatre. Chelsea is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada’s Playwriting Program.

From 27 September to 20 December, Woolley will teach Neptune youth how to cultivate their skills as creative writers, develop their voices in this form, and create a piece of collective theatre performance. Her theatre-based workshop series will aim to teach youth writing skills based on observation and gradually
incorporate theatrical expression, i.e., movement, improve singing, poetry, etc., until the final weeks of the program when their writing will be transformed into a final script that they will learn how to rehearse and perform. In January, youth will have an opportunity to showcase their theatrical performance for their family, friends and Boys & Girls Clubs community.

POWER YOUTH FUNDERs:
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Dasha Shenkman

POWER YOUTH PARTNERs:
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence Heights
Boys & Girls Clubs of Weston-Mount Dennis
Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs

More on Power Youth: bit.ly/1TxxkJf
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 incorporates 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.

For images, interview requests or more information please contact: media@thepowerplant.org or 416.973.4949

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