

Art Museum
University of Toronto
—
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
University of Toronto Art Centre

7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3
artmuseum.utoronto.ca

Art Museum

May 8, 2017

The Art Museum at the University of Toronto Art Centre is very proud to announce the award of a major grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage. Under the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund a grant of \$524,157 will support two significant capital renewal initiatives: the renovation of the Art Museum's entrance, and the upgrade and reorganization of the Collections storage, to be completed by March 31, 2018.

Together these projects are designed to maximize the benefits of the historic federation of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery and University of Toronto Art Centre, and their rebirth as the Art Museum at the University of Toronto.

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, said "Cultural spaces like the Art Museum at the University of Toronto Art Centre bring together people of all backgrounds. By supporting the renovation of cultural infrastructure, we are creating good jobs for the middle class, strengthening communities and helping to make arts and culture more accessible for all Canadians."

L'honorable Mélanie Joly, ministre du Patrimoine canadien, a déclaré : « Des espaces culturels comme la Galerie d'art du Centre d'art de l'Université de Toronto rassemblent des gens de tous les horizons. En soutenant la rénovation d'infrastructures culturelles, nous créons des emplois pour la classe moyenne, renforçons les communautés et contribuons à rendre les arts et la culture plus accessibles à tous les Canadiens. »

Executive Director Barbara Fischer emphasized, "With these projects we are setting the stage for a new phase of accessibility, visibility, and purposeful engagement with our audiences, creating generosity of access, legibility, and

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unimpeded flow for all visitors—residents and newcomers, and amateurs and specialists alike. “

The Art Museum’s new entrance area with its wheelchair-accessible double doors and glazed entrance hall will greatly enhance the visitor experience, enticing students, faculty, and broader and more diverse publics alike to partake in Art Museum exhibitions, programming, and presentation of the Collections. Visitors using mobility devices, as well as disabled persons, seniors, and those new to the campus, will have more direct and unencumbered access to the Art Museum and all of its programs for the first time.

Very significantly, the grant will also enable the Art Museum to undertake a major rationalization and optimization of its Collections storage, thereby improving scholarly access and enhancing the public role of the Collections. Increased storage capacity will enable staff to improve conservation methodology and further enhance all aspects of professional museum standards in the care of our Collections. Upgrading the HVAC system at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery site will have substantive and immediate positive impact on environmental controls for the presentation of exhibitions in the galleries, as well as the preservation of the Collections.

The two-part project will allow the Art Museum to assume an ever more integral and expanded role in the artistic community and cultural life of Toronto and Canada, broadening and growing our services to a wide array of communities and audiences. With the support the Department of Canadian Heritage we are thrilled to create welcoming, comfortable spaces and energized programming, enhancing artistic creation and exhibitions and increasing opportunities for aesthetic pleasure.

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This project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada, Ce
projet a été rendu possible en partie grâce au gouvernement du Canada.

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