



Office: 250 Fort York Blvd.
Toronto, ON, M5V 3K9
hello@thebentway.ca
416-304-0222
thebentway.ca

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THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE BENTWAY SKATE TRAIL Toronto's Newest Public Space Located Under the Gardiner Expressway

**Saturday, January 6, 2018 @ 11am
#BENTONWINTER18**

**Opening Weekend highlights include performances from
Charmie Deller, Carmen Braden, the Toronto Ice Skate Group,
and the Mayor's Skate Party!**

The Bentway, a new public space designed by PUBLIC WORK and Ken Greenberg Consultants located under the Gardiner Expressway, reimagines how Torontonians gather and experience art and events downtown.

Made possible by an unprecedented public-private collaboration between the City of Toronto and Judy and Wilmot Matthews, The Bentway is specifically designed for Toronto - a city where culture grows in unexpected and extraordinary places. The Bentway works closely with partners at the City of Toronto and Fort York National Historic Site to celebrate the unique character of this area underneath the Gardiner Expressway. Through excellence in stewardship, innovative programming, and world-class design, The Bentway seeks to engage the vibrant and diverse communities in the surrounding area and draw visitors from around the world.

The first section to be developed, **The Bentway Skate Trail**, will officially open to the public on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 11am with special events all weekend.

Opening weekend festivities include performances from singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Charmie Deller and composer and performer Carmen Braden with her Black Ice Sound music project; demonstrations of Ice Breaking, a unique hybrid of break dancing and freestyle ice skating by the Toronto Ice Skate Group; and art installations, food and drink, music throughout the day from the best of Toronto's DJ scene, pop-up curling, and free admission to Fort York National Historic Site.

The opening weekend will also host the Mayor's Skate Party on Sunday, January 7 from 1-4pm with Mayor Tory and members of Toronto City Council. Complimentary skate rentals and hot chocolate will be available during the fun, family event.

The inaugural Winter Season at The Bentway will run from January 6 - mid-March, 2018 (weather permitting). Ongoing winter programming will include free Monday night skate rentals; Beats and Bents Friday night skate parties with a rotating cast of DJs, and skate instruction and DJ and Ice Breaking Workshops. A skating village, designed by + tongtong, will be installed at The Bentway and will house the skate rental shop, warming stations and a variety of seating options. On weekend evenings, skaters are invited to warm up in the Strongbow Lounge, which will be serving up Strongbow Apple Ciders and other fine Molson Coors products. A curated food truck program will serve hot food, warm and cold drinks, and decadent desserts.



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Throughout the Winter Season, The Bentway's inaugural public art exhibition, "Constructions of the Everyday," will be on view. For over fifty years the Gardiner Expressway has been a defining feature of Toronto's urban landscape. In a radical act of renewal, The Bentway reimagines this static structure and imbues it with renewed relevance for a contemporary city. Embracing the spirit of transformation, the visual artists commissioned for "Constructions of the Everyday" ask visitors to find new value and beauty in the structures of everyday life.

Additional seasonal programming will be announced at a later date. More information, including hours is available at TheBentway.ca/skate-trail-opening.

The Bentway's 2018 Winter Season is supported by the City of Toronto, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport), Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, Strongbow, and Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts.

Special thanks to 102.1 the Edge, the Ontario Tire Stewardship, Giant Containers, and Style Garage.

[The Bentway](http://TheBentway.ca) is a unique and innovative public space that transforms 1.75km underneath Toronto's Gardiner Expressway into a new gathering place for our city's growing population.

The initial phase, a 1.1km trail and series of public spaces, from Strachan Avenue to Bathurst Street, knits together seven local neighbourhoods with over 70,000 residents, becoming a gateway to the waterfront, while providing access to important attractions and destinations – from Fort York National Historic Site, Ontario Place and Exhibition Place to Harbourfront Centre and the CN Tower. The Bentway offers year-round activities and events, including gardens, a skating rink, recreational amenities, public markets, public art, special exhibitions, festivals, theatre and musical performances and more.

The Bentway is maintained, operated, and programmed by The Bentway Conservancy. The project was made possible through the collaboration of a range of city-builders and experts, including the City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, Judy and Wilmot Matthews, Ken Greenberg Consultants, PUBLIC WORK, Fort York National Historic Site, and Artscape. The Bentway is a proud member of the High Line Network, an international network of projects that transform underutilized infrastructure into new urban landscapes.

For more information, please visit:

Website: TheBentway.ca

Social Media: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/thebentway), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/thebentway) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/thebentway) using @TheBentway and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

#TOBENTWAY #REIMAGINEWINTER #BENTONWINTER18

Media Contact: FLIP PUBLICITY, 416.533.7710 • Carrie Sager X224, carrie@flip-publicity.com

*The media launch of **The Bentway Skate Trail** will take place on Friday, January 5, 2018 @ 1pm
More details and invitation to come