



Office: 250 Fort York Blvd.
Toronto, ON, M5V 3K9
hello@thebentway.ca
416.304.0222
thebentway.ca

For Immediate Release: December 18, 2017

MORE PROGRAMMING ANNOUNCED FOR INAUGURAL WINTER SEASON AT THE BENTWAY

**Visual Art Installations, free Monday night skate rentals, Friday Night Skate Parties, and more
at Toronto's Newest Public Space Located Under the Gardiner Expressway
#TOBENTWAY**

THE BENTWAY SKATE TRAIL OFFICIALLY OPENS SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018 @ 11am

**With live musical performances, all-day DJs and
a visit from Canadian Figure Skating Pair Lubov Ilyushechkina and Dylan Moscovitch**

The Bentway, Toronto's newest 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.

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 including the Mayor's Skate Party on Sunday, January 7 from 1-4pm with Mayor Tory and members of Toronto City Council.

No need to hibernate this year, #ReimagineWinter at The Bentway with skating and other free activities all weekend long! Opening Weekend festivities include live musical performances by Charmie Deller, Carmen Braden, T.Dot BANGERZ Brass, and a sing-along with Singing OUT; the opportunity to meet Canadian figure skating pairs silver medalists, Lubov Ilyushechkina and Dylan Moscovitch; plus art installations, food and drink, and special opportunities from Fort York National Historic Site, including free admission, an historic selfie booth, and free tours.

Opening day DJs, spinning from 11:30am-11pm, include Fawn Big Canoe, Dirty Dale, DJ Steph Honey, DJ Shub, Skratch Bastid, and Nino Brown.

Throughout the Winter Season, The Bentway's inaugural public art exhibition, "Constructions of the Everyday," which encompasses a variety of work from several artists, 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 five visual artists commissioned for "Constructions of the Everyday" ask visitors to find new value and beauty in the structures of everyday life.

Future Snowmachines in Kinngait (Colossus), by Janice Qimirpik, Moe Kelly, Embassy of Imagination and PA System, are larger-than-life sculptures of snowmobiles created by youth artists from Kinngait (Cape Dorset, NU) to illustrate the essential role these winter vehicles play in northern communities.

Inspired by The Bentway at this key moment during the site's transformation, ***Photos for a Project in Progress*** from St. Catharines-based photographer Jimmy Limit starts with artifacts left behind by the construction process to create a series of unlikely and highly graphic assemblages. His

work also serves as a time capsule that reflects on the present while nodding to The Bentway's future.

Pro Tem, from Toronto-based sculpture and installation artist Janine Miedzik uses brightly coloured adhesive tape to create amplified versions of objects that are often found amidst everyday travels through the urban environment. Her work adopts the language of transitory spaces and their unique methods of way-finding.

Shadow!, a site-specific project for The Bentway Skate Trail by Public Visualization Studio, shines light onto ice skaters moving under the highway, projecting live silhouettes onto the concrete columns, magnifying their presence and intensifying their connection to their surroundings.

Toronto-based multi-disciplinary artist, designer and muralist, Jennifer Ilett's **Re-Route** responds to the Gardiner Expressway as an iconic Toronto artery, whose layered history encompasses settlement and expansion, by unearthing passages of the past and present, laying bare the archaeology of the site of The Bentway.

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 provided by Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport; Beats and Bents Friday night skate parties with a rotating cast of DJs, and Turn it Out DJ and Ice Breaking Workshops with UforChange and the Toronto Ice Skate Group. 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. A curated food truck program will serve hot food, warm and cold drinks, and decadent desserts. On Friday-Monday evenings, skaters are invited to warm up in the Strongbow Lounge. For more information please visit 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](#) 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 Wilnot 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](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) using @TheBentway and [YouTube](#)

#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