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THE BENTWAY and NEW MUSEUM present IDEASCITY TORONTO

**A Daylong Program of Conversations and Events, Exploring the Cultural Forces
that Connect and Shape the Communities of Toronto
Saturday, September 15, 2018**

The Bentway, in collaboration with the **New Museum** (New York City), present **IdeasCity Toronto**, a collaborative, civic platform with cultural innovators, creative practitioners, and other instigators. Free, accessible, and open to the public, IdeasCity Toronto will take place on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at the newly opened Strachan Gate at The Bentway.

IdeasCity, the New Museum's civic platform that explores the future of cities with art and culture as a driving force, initiates a new cycle of programs with IdeasCity Toronto, centered on the theme of Toronto as a "City of Cities." The daylong exploration of strategies, ideas, and propositions will feature panel discussions, keynote lectures, workshops, conversations, and performances. Participants include **Rick Lowe**, **Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts**, **Adrienne Clarkson**, **Simone Browne**, **Anne Michaels**, **RISE Edutainment**, **Vanessa Brazeau**, former mayor **David Crombie**, and emerging artists and community leaders from Toronto. A complete schedule will be announced soon.

IdeasCity Toronto will host conversations and interactive workshops on building access and equity within the Toronto arts community in collaboration with local and international partner organizations including the **Chinatown Art Brigade** (New York City), **Myseum of Toronto**, and **Colloqate Design** (New Orleans).

"We are thrilled to be collaborating with the New Museum's IdeasCity initiative. IdeasCity Toronto provides the opportunity to address pressing urban issues through the lens of art and culture, creating a new model for public engagement in Toronto," said Ilana Altman, Director of Programming, The Bentway

IdeasCity cofounder Karen Wong noted, *"We are excited to commence a new cycle of IdeasCity in Toronto, working with The Bentway on a tailored program that will bring together relevant individuals and groups to explore vital issues that impact Toronto's communities."*

The one-day event will also include a pitch session to share bold ideas, designs, and strategies for shaping the future of Toronto. Successful applicants will present their projects to the public and will be awarded the opportunity to run a coached crowdfunding campaign through **Patronicity**, a grant-platform dedicated to community initiatives. The Bentway and IdeasCity are currently accepting pitch ideas. For more information, please visit: <http://www.thebentway.ca/2018/07/19/ideascity-toronto-the-bentway-open-call-for-ideas/>

For more information, please visit TheBentway.ca/ideascityto
Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) using @TheBentway and [YouTube](#)
#TOBentway #IdeasCityTO

IdeasCity Toronto is presented by Vancity Community Investment Bank, with lead media partner Ideacity, Moses Znaimer's Conference, and Azure, Designlines, The Walrus, and Spacing. The Bentway is supported by the City of Toronto and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport).

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About The Bentway

[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 Bentway 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 skate trail, recreational amenities, public markets, public art, special exhibitions, festivals, theatre and musical performances, and more. The initial phase of The Bentway is open to the public. Stretching from Strachan Avenue in the west to just east of Bathurst Street underneath the Gardiner Expressway, this section of The Bentway is located on the lands of Fort York National Historic Site, recognized by the Government of Canada as a site of national significance.

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.

The Bentway Skate Trail, the first part of Phase 1 of The Bentway construction, officially launched on Saturday, January 6, 2018. The completion of Phase 1, featuring the opening of the grand Strachan Gate, will take place on Saturday, August 25, 2018.

About IdeasCity

[IdeasCity](#) is a collaborative, civic, and creative platform that starts from the premise that art and culture are essential to the future vitality of cities. This international initiative provides a forum for designers, artists, technologists, and policymakers to exchange ideas, identify challenges, propose solutions, and engage the public's participation. The initiative was cofounded at the New Museum by Lisa Phillips, Toby Devan Lewis Director, and Karen Wong, Deputy Director. Past IdeasCity programs have taken place in New York (2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017), Istanbul (2012), São Paulo (2013), Detroit (2016), Athens (2016), and Arles (2017). For more information, visit ideas-city.org.

About New Museum

The [New Museum](#) is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room space on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

About Fort York National Historic Site

[Fort York National Historic Site](http://www.toronto.ca/fortyork) is one of 10 Toronto History Museums operated by the City of Toronto. Since 1793, Fort York has been an important military location and is where Toronto was founded as an urban place. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, this 43-acre heritage conservation district is home to Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings. Fort York offers permanent exhibits and immersive multimedia displays at the Visitor Centre, ongoing programming and events, site tours, military displays, historic cooking demonstrations, and the annual Indigenous Arts Festival. Fort York National Historic Site is also home to the first phase of The Bentway. For more information, visit <http://www.toronto.ca/fortyork>.