

#MonsterArts For Youth Is Back For 5th Year

Focus On Building All-Inclusive Environment And Highlight Creativity Of South Asian Art Forms



MISSISSAUGA: The #MonsterArts for Youth (MAY) program is back for its fifth year with more workshop varieties than ever before.

The program by MonstrARTity, a not-for-profit arts organization in Mississauga, sends professional artists into a variety of schools across Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon, at no cost to the schools.

The focus of the MAY program is to build an all-inclusive environment for students from different backgrounds and transcending cultures while also highlighting the creativity of various South Asian art forms.

The #MonsterArts for Youth program started in 2014, and continues to grow year after year, with this year's expansion being that select schools in Markham will have the chance to take part in the program. The program has also added new artists to the roster to offer new workshop disciplines.

"Education and creativity in the classroom starts with inclusiveness and acceptance of all, no matter what age, gender, race

or culture an individual identifies as or comes from," says Executive Director of MonstrARTity, Vikas Kohli. "The MAY program promotes this very idea, and being in an area like the Peel region where we are so fortunate to have many different types of people blend together as one, makes this program paramount to our next generation's development."

Curated by professional artists, the #MonsterArts for Youth program is the perfect way to get kids excited about the arts and to learn about their own culture and the cultures of their classmates in a fun, approachable environment. Teachers looking to book a workshop with one of our world-class artists can visit <http://www.monsterartsforyouth.com/>.

For more information on the MAY program, or teachers who have questions about booking a workshop can contact MAY@monstrartity.com.

2018 #MonsterArts for Youth Artist Roster

Uppekha Jain is former Miss India Canada Worldwide and the first Indo-Canadian actress to be featured as a permanent cast of



one of India's longest running, top rated, prime-time daily soap operas, Saath Nibhana Saathiya ('Saathiya'), on Star Plus and has featured in over 30 commercials. After 7 years in Mumbai, Uppekha - a GTA girl at heart - has decided to foray back into the Toronto entertainment world.

Raheel Patel: Museum curator Raheel has pursued a lifelong passion for toys and games. This passion has driven him to create an engaging #MonsterArts for Youth workshop to showcase three popular board games: Chess, Ludo, and Snakes & Ladders.

Reshmi Dave: Return of a MAY favorite, Reshmi is an award-winning Indo-Canadian

producer, performer and choreographer, using Kathak and Bollywood dance as the basis of her work.

Sheniz Janmohamed is an author, artist educator, spoken word artist and the Artistic Director of Sufi Poets Series. She facilitates creative writing workshops and retreats for writers of all ages.

Krystal Kiran: Making her Broadway debut at the age of nineteen, Krystal is a dancer, singer, actor and teacher. She is Founder/Creative Director at House of Kiran Productions.

Ria Aikat is a former artistic director and current dancer for the non-profit dance organization, Culture Shock Toronto.

ED HANLEY is multi-dimen-

sional artist, though best known as a tabla player. He has been featured at prominent music festivals and concert halls around the world. He has earned two Juno Award nominations, as well as the Grand Prize in the World Music category of the John Lennon Songwriting Competition.

Alan Faigal is an education specialist with a health and wellness edge: he has studied holistic nutrition and is an associate PRO trainer with CanFitPro.

Vikas Kohli: Award-winning film composer and music producer, Vikas Kohli is the Artistic Director of MonstrARTity and is known for his expertise fusing together genres as varied as punk, classical and Bollywood pop.

Toronto's Winter Plan For Homeless Ensures More Spaces

TORONTO: The City of Toronto has announced details about the 2018-19 winter service plan to ensure safe and welcoming places for all who need them during the coming winter weather. The plan is informed by last winter's experience and supported by recommendations from the City's Ombudsman.

In addition to the existing 24-hour respite site locations, the City is opening three new services that will use recently purchased prefabricated structures to be located in the east, central and west parts of the city. Like the existing sites, the new sites will offer single adults and couples, along with their pets, easy access to warm places to rest and to obtain meals and service referrals.

The new sites are under de-

velopment and will be available starting December 15. In the meantime, the City is opening a temporary 24-hour respite site with up to 200 spaces starting November 15 in the Queen Elizabeth Building at Exhibition Place.

"City staff are working to increase the supply of affordable and supportive housing, but it is critical for anyone who is homeless to have sufficient services and places to go during the coldest weather of the year," said General Manager Paul Raftis of Shelter, Support and Housing Administration. "We must prioritize the safety and comfort of our most vulnerable residents."

This is the fifth straight year the City has increased the number of spaces available at 24-hour

respite sites. By mid-November there will be at least 600 spaces, with more available as contingency space.

"Although the shelter system is operating at high occupancy, we are confident that with the 24-hour respite sites and new beds coming soon, we will have sufficient spaces for all who need them this winter," said Raftis.

The locations for the new 24-hour respite sites are:

- 1155 King St. W.: expected to be open December 15, 2018
- 701 Fleet St.: expected to be open January 31, 2019
- 351 Lake Shore Blvd. E: expected to be open January 31, 2019

Capacity in the permanent shelter system will be enhanced by year end with the expected

opening of 102 net new beds as part of the City's shelter expansion plans. These expansions will provide additional beds for women and seniors.

City staff have made improvements over the past nine months that will result in better service for respite site and shelter clients, quicker access to services, and tighter management of the routine and unexpected events that have an impact on the shelter and respite system. The improvements include:

- 24-hour respite site interim standards, implemented in April 2018, are being replaced with updated standards that contain input from the community and the public.

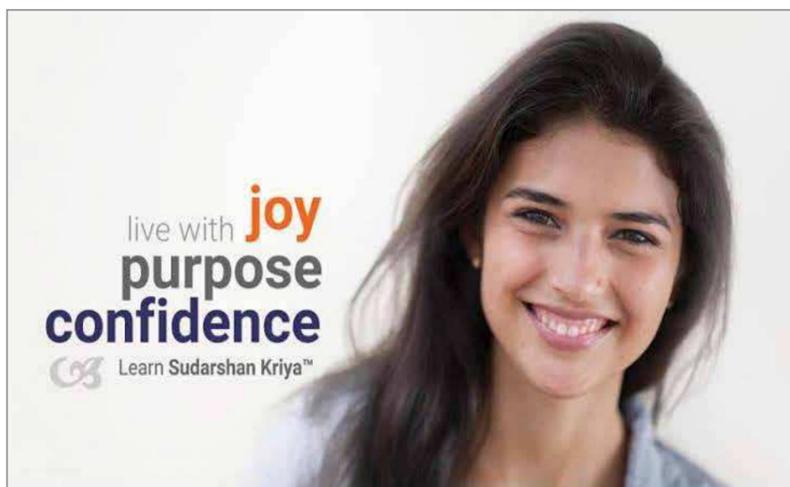
• An expanded Central Intake staff complement equipped with

appropriate technology will be able to answer calls more efficiently, resulting in shorter wait times and more streamlined access to services.

• A 24/7 Duty Manager's Office will provide real time oversight and operational assistance to community and staff providers of service.

Access to 24-hour respite sites and shelter is through 311, in-person at the Assessment and Referral Centre at 129 Peter St., and by direct contact with the service provider. Information about City-funded homelessness services is available at <http://www.toronto.ca/homelesshelp>.

Detailed information about the prefabricated structures is available at <http://ow.ly/Xwhj-30mydTd>.



HAPPINESS PROGRAM

November 23-25

Fri.: 6.30 pm - 9.30 pm
Sat./Sun.: 10.30 am - 1.30 pm

Fee: \$375
Student: (\$275)



Health



Energy



Inner Peace

Art of Living Centre - GTA
14-1510 Drew Road
Mississauga, L5S 1W7

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(905)405-9642 gta@artofliving.ca



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