

**401**  
RICHMOND

# update

Spring 2023 Volume 30, Issue 1





The 401 Richmond Update is a community-building initiative of Urbanspace Property Group. The newsletter began in June 1994 and over the years has documented the eclectic activities and fascinating people who make a home in our historic factory in downtown Toronto. If you would like to be added to the 401 Update mailing list, please email: [UPDATE@urbanspace.org](mailto:UPDATE@urbanspace.org).



### 401 Richmond Ltd. Staff

Ingrid Araya, Janitorial Services  
Bob Chandler, Security  
Maria Alejandra Cortes, Office Administrator  
Tobin Dominic, Junior Building Operator  
Brian Graciano, Property Manager  
Mark Jamorabon, Maintenance  
Pamela Lampkin, Janitorial Services  
Elina Liakhova, Administrative Assistant  
Redentor Paragas, Maintenance  
Jon Price, Security  
Elise Rodgers, Lease Administrator  
Vicki Rodgers, Chief Executive Officer  
Yenislen Rodriguez, Janitorial Services  
Ronel Ruiz, Maintenance  
Jake Whittaker, Parking Lot Attendant, Maintenance  
Saskia Vegter, Urban Agriculture Coordinator  
Renato Villanueva, Maintenance  
Jennifer Ward, Communications & Community Animator  
Margaret Zeidler, Founder

### Newsletter

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### COVER IMAGE

Unique Art Hunt wooden egg creations that were made for the 2019 event.



Community Connectivity Partner



**RECYCLED**  
Paper made from  
recycled material  
FSC® C103151





Made By Emblem, Studio 209 at Doors Open 2022



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**MOVING AROUND**

**Dark Horse Espresso Bar** will be relocating into the larger café space on the 1st floor at the west end of the building by the Spadina entrance. Watch for announcements on their expanded menu and other exciting options, coming soon!

**401 MEETING ROOM**

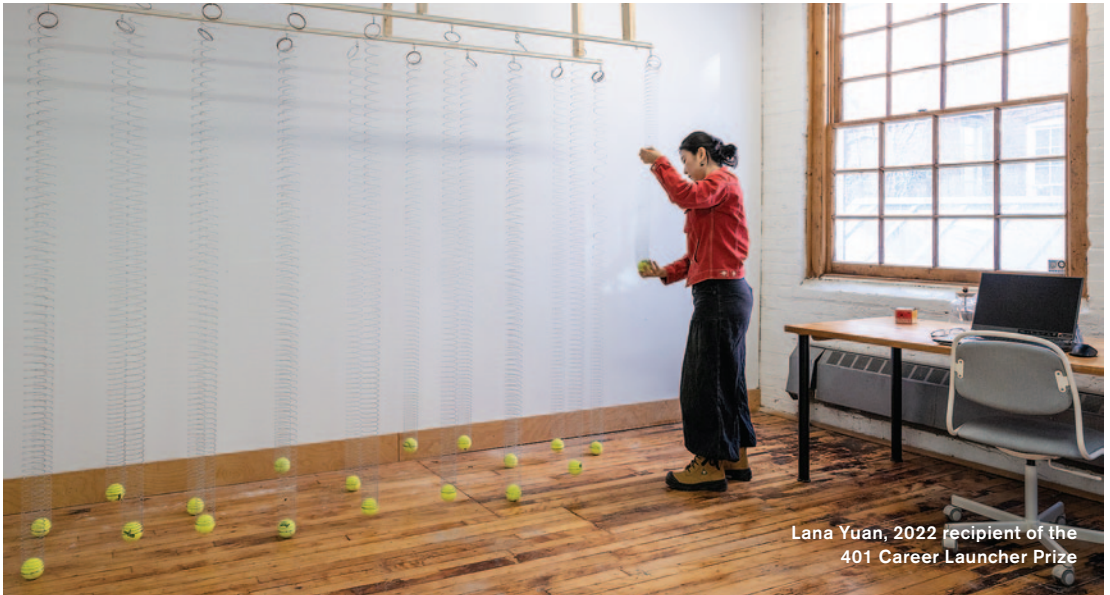


If you are looking for a place to hold a meeting or workshop, contact us about renting **Studio 303**. The room boasts all of the necessary amenities at a reasonable rate.

Visit [www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com) or contact [frontdesk@urbanspace.org](mailto:frontdesk@urbanspace.org) for more information.



Sign up for semi-monthly *What's On* updates to your inbox at [www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com).



Lana Yuan, 2022 recipient of the 401 Career Launcher Prize

CHERYL RONDEAU

## 401 CAREER LAUNCHER PRIZE: EMERGING ARTIST STUDIO

Each year, 401 Richmond welcomes an emerging artist into its community through the **401 Career Launcher Prize**. The 401 Career Launcher Prize provides an exceptional opportunity to occupy a coveted 500 sq/ft studio for one year at 401 Richmond, one of Canada's most dynamic arts facilities. The award recipient will become part of a unique community of artists, cultural producers, creative pioneers, passionate activists and social entrepreneurs. Presented annually since 2000 the 401 Career Launcher Prize, chosen by a panel of visual arts professionals, has been a way of providing space and support for research and experimentation at a critical time in an emerging artist's career. Apply by **May 13, 2023**. More information at: [401richmond.com](http://401richmond.com)



Artist Janine Lindgren shows her work at Doors Open 2019

## DOORS OPEN TORONTO

On **May 27**, 401 welcomes guests to explore the building and its public spaces, and to observe the Three "C"s – community, culture, and commerce – at work. Join a guided tour or wander freely to the galleries, shops, open studios and more! Fuel your visit with refreshments from our café, and take in our green rooftop and inner courtyard. Admission is free! The **Doors Open Toronto 2023** theme is "City of Sound."

## CELEBRATE SPRING WITH THE RETURN OF ART HUNT

401 Richmond welcomes back the public to our building-wide "Art Hunt," a scavenger hunt set to take place on **Wednesday, March 15**, from 4 to 5 pm. Participants will be given a series of clues, taking them around the lower level and first floor of the building to discover the secret locations of hidden art treasures.

Artist Brigitte Nowak's decorated egg from Art Hunt 2019



# spotted & applauded



## 📖 BOOK\*HUG PRESS' ANITA ANAND NOVEL RECOGNIZED TWICE

Book\*hug Press publication *A Convergence of Solitudes* by Anita Anand was a 2023 Forest of Reading Evergreen Award nominee and a finalist for the 2022 QWF Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction.



## 🎭 NECESSARY ANGEL SHOW MAKES BEST OF LIST

Necessary Angel Theatre Company's production of *Is God Is* makes culture critic Glenn Sumi's list of the top ten Toronto theatre productions of 2022. A partnership with Obsidian Theatre Company and Canadian Stage, *Is God Is* is written by Aleshea Harris and was directed by Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu.



## 🎧 CANADALAND ON CBC BEST PODCAST LIST

On the roster of *Canadaland* podcasts, *Ratf\*cker* makes **CBC Radio's Best Podcasts of 2022** list. Senior CBC Radio Producer **Kate Evans** notes, "The show also led me to reflect on politics in Canada and how we sometimes have a habit of shrugging off and forgetting our politicians' missteps."

## 🏆 SANDRA LARONDE APPOINTED TO THE ORDER OF ONTARIO

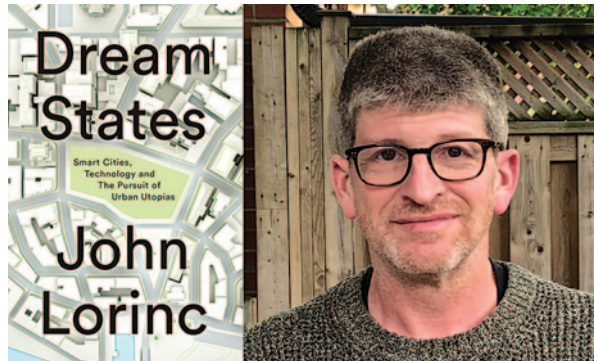
Red Sky Performance's Executive & Artistic Director **Sandra Laronde** was appointed to the Order of Ontario for 2021 for her outstanding contribution to arts and culture in Ontario and elsewhere. The Honourable **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and **Chancellor of the Order of Ontario**, bestowed the province's highest honour to the new appointees.



LOTTIE THOR

## 📖 SPACING WRITER JOHN LORINC WINS WRITERS' TRUST PRIZE

*Dream States* by Spacing Magazine's writer **John Lorinc** won the Balsillie Prize for Public Policy, an award presented by **Writers' Trust Canada**. The \$60,000 Balsillie Prize for Public Policy honours nonfiction that contributes to Canadian policy.



# tenant profile



ALEJANDRO SANTIAGO

## **RAINBOW RAILROAD** Studio 236

With nearly 70 countries criminalizing same-sex intimacy around the world today, LGBTQI+ people are routinely arrested, denied basic human rights, and sometimes brutally attacked, tortured, or murdered. This is what faced sisters Kena and Sanchia living in their country of Barbados where being gay can result in life imprisonment and violent attacks are common. Enter **Rainbow Railroad**, the global non-profit organization that helps LGBTQI+ people facing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics. “When we decided we wanted to come to Canada, it came out of a dark place, to be honest, we were experiencing a lot of bad things,” Kena shares.

Since it’s founding in 2006 as a volunteer-run organization of diverse LGBTQI+ activists and human rights advocates – and with charitable status in Canada and the United States since 2013 and 2015 respectively – Rainbow Railroad has helped individuals find safety through emergency relocation and other forms of assistance. In 2021, Rainbow Railroad supported 1,812 people – the highest number of people the organization has helped of any year to date. The people they help are often experiencing police harassment, family violence, employment discrimination or forced conversion therapy. In some cases, they endure life-threatening attacks perpetrated by members of their own families or communities.

While Rainbow Railroad can’t always relocate everyone who reaches out for help, they work with a global network of activists and human rights defenders on the ground to offer additional supports that include safe accommodation, medical care and travel documents. Jamaica is one of nine Caribbean countries that still criminalize same sex intimacy, and one of the first countries where Rainbow Railroad established a major operational presence and they continue to work in the region. The organization supports a safehouse in Jamaica that houses about a dozen individuals, keeping them safe as they prepare to relocate to a safer country with Rainbow Railroad’s help. They also provide targeted cash assistance for things like passport application fees and other documentation, critical medical care including anti-retrovirals for those living with HIV, and other essential needs such as winter coats and suitcases.

As the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in lockdowns, travel restrictions and border closures, the risks facing LGBTQI+ people in unsafe countries increased with reduced access to health care, more domestic abuse and heightened stigmatization; and Rainbow Railroad’s work became more difficult than ever. In June of 2020, the advocacy group released a report on the impact of COVID-19 on displaced LGBTQI+ persons with four recommendations for policy makers. Based on research work from a partner organization and interviews



**Opposite** Dr. Kimahli Powell, Chief Executive Officer of Rainbow Railroad (sitting on the floor, first row, second from the right) surrounded by his dedicated staff.

**Right** Sisters Kenia and Sanchia, who have been helped by the Rainbow Railroad and now live in Toronto.



with human rights activists across the globe, Rainbow Railroad suggested that during the pandemic policy makers uphold the right to asylum, resume the resettlement of LGBTQI refugees, release LGBTQI+ asylum seekers in detention centres, and improve supports for LGBTQI+ refugees. Together with the report, the organization tackled the crisis by providing direct emergency livelihood supports, enhance the capacity of global partner agencies and human rights groups.

As the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan, LGBTQI+ people in the country have faced severe persecution including physical assaults, sexual violence and reported unlawful killings. Since August 2021 Rainbow Railroad has received more than 6,000 requests for help from LGBTQI+ Afghans. In that first year the organization relocated 230 individuals and helped a further 650 with financial, shelter, and mental health supports. After a year of advocacy and campaigning, as of December 2022, in partnership with the **Government of Canada** and the **Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship**, Rainbow Railroad can facilitate resettling approximately 600 Afghans.

The critically important work Rainbow Railroad undertakes all around the world has received a significant amount of high-profile attention, helping to increase the effectiveness of the advocacy they undertake. In 2020, five folks that had been relocated by Rainbow Railroad were partnered up with the television show **Canadian Drag Race** contestants for drag makeovers, and in 2021

Canadian drag superstar **Scarlett Bobo** became an international ambassador for the organization. The British Olympic diver **Tom Daley** launched a Pride collection on his **Made With Love** fashion label in 2022 with all proceeds going to Rainbow Railroad. **Scotiabank** also recently signed on to a three-year \$495,000 partnership to help provide direct assistance to LGBTQI+ people in need globally, supporting the organization as it develops connections with like-minded groups at home and around the world including countries where Scotiabank operates.

Most recently, Rainbow Railroad was included as a consultative partner with the **Biden administration** to help develop the **United States (US) government** program **Welcome Corps** that allows individual Americans to privately sponsor refugees from around the world. As a large step forward in the US government's plan to advance the LGBTQI+ rights globally, this program will help at-risk LGBTQI+ people find safe homes across the US.

While Rainbow Railroad has played an enormous role in supporting and saving the lives of LGBTQI+ people around the world, they were still on track to receive 10,000 requests for help in 2022 from LGBTQI+ people whose lives are in danger. Knowing first-hand how Rainbow Railroad ensured their path to a safe life in Canada, sisters **Kena** and **Sanchia** now enjoy a life in Toronto where they live openly as who they are. According to Sanchia, "Rainbow Railroad was that opening for me."

[rainbowrailroad.org](http://rainbowrailroad.org)

# listings March to May 2023

The Listings Board is your opportunity to communicate with other tenants and keep them informed about what is happening in your organization. If you are having a sale, exhibition, or event you would like advertised, email details to [communications@urbanspace.org](mailto:communications@urbanspace.org). Open to all tenants.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: April 15, 2023

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## GALLERY DIRECTORY

A Space Gallery (Studio 110)  
[aspacegallery.org](http://aspacegallery.org)

Abbozzo Gallery (Studio 128)  
[abbozzogallery.com](http://abbozzogallery.com)

Artspace Gallery TMU (Studio LL106)  
[artspacetmu.com](http://artspacetmu.com)

Critical Distance Centre for Curators (Studio 122)  
[criticaldistance.ca](http://criticaldistance.ca)

Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography (Studio 120)  
[gallery44.org](http://gallery44.org)

Myseum of Toronto (Studio LL01)  
[mysuemoftoronto.com](http://mysuemoftoronto.com)

Open Studio (Studio 104)  
[openstudio.ca](http://openstudio.ca)

Red Head Gallery (Studio 115)  
[redheadgallery.org](http://redheadgallery.org)

Simon Bentley Fine Art (Studio 133)  
[simonbentleyfineart.com](http://simonbentleyfineart.com)

TAG (Tangled Art Gallery) (Studio 124)  
[tangledarts.org](http://tangledarts.org)

Trinity Square Video (Studio 121)  
[trinitysquarevideo.com](http://trinitysquarevideo.com)

Urbanspace Gallery (Studio 117)  
[urbanspacegallery.ca](http://urbanspacegallery.ca)

yumart Gallery (Studio B-20)  
[yumart.ca](http://yumart.ca)

YYZ Artists' Outlet (Studio 140)  
[yyzartistsoutlet.org](http://yyzartistsoutlet.org)

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## EXHIBITIONS

continues to MARCH 11  
Gallery 44 Main Space  
Salon 44: *Fundraising Exhibition*

YYZ Artists' Outlet  
Hyang Cho: *Certain Things from Uncertain Moments*  
Ryan Park: *Under the Sun*

continues to MARCH 25  
Urbanspace Gallery  
Kenojuak Ashevak: *Life and Legacy*

Abbozzo Gallery  
*Wavelengths*: Lola Erhart, Delfina Gómez Marestaing, Celia Lees, Fabiana Salomao, Steven K. Tucker, David Wilsterman

Red Head Gallery  
Bogdan Luca: *The Green Suitcase*

continues to APRIL 30  
Myseum of Toronto  
*Ten of Toronto*  
co-curated by Tatum Taylor Chaubal and John Lorinc

MARCH 31 – APRIL 29  
Abbozzo Gallery  
Patty Maher: *Story*  
Stephane Alexis: *Deep Cs*

APRIL 11 – MAY 27  
Gallery 44  
Vitrines Jocelyn Reynolds: *Continuum*  
Main Space Colin Miner: *The clearest image*

## EVENTS

MARCH 15  
**401 Richmond Art Hunt**  
A scavenger hunt where participants are given a series of clues, taking them around the lower level and first floor of the building to discover secret hidden art treasures. All welcome to attend.  
Time: 4–5 pm

APRIL 13 – 26  
**Images Festival**  
The 36th Annual Images Festival presents the theme of (g)hosts, examining the relationship between spirit and place.  
Guest curators **Emma Steen, Helen Lee, Nasrin Himada, Nora Rosenthal, Sarah Edo, Samay Arcentales Cajas, Tyisha Murphy, Yasmin Nurming-Por**, and Images Programming Director **Jaclyn Quaresma** will explore the relationship between these two concepts.

MAY 27  
**401 Richmond**  
*Doors Open Toronto*  
Explore Toronto's built legacy as we open our doors along with more than 150 architecturally, historically, culturally and socially significant buildings across the city.  
Time: 10 am–5 pm





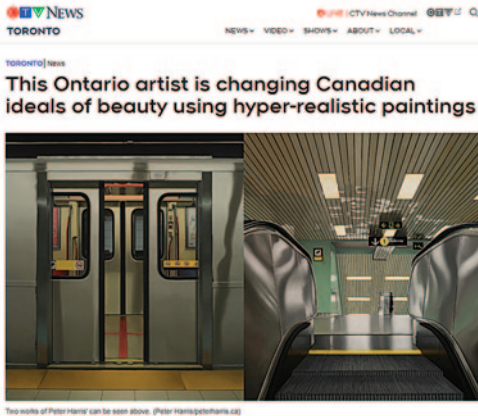


**Opposite page**  
 Julie Paila's *Waxing Moon* is part of  
 Salon 44 at Gallery 44 until March 11

**Top to bottom (left to right)**  
 Jocelyn Reynolds' *chrysalis* in the vitrines  
 at Gallery 44 (April 11 to May 27);  
*Ten of Toronto* at Myseum of Toronto  
 until April 10;  
 Ryan Park at YYZ Artists' Outlet  
 until March 11;  
 Kenojuak Ashevak at  
 Urbanspace Gallery until March 25



# press check



The works of Peter Harris can be seen above. (Photo: petersharris.ca)

## PETER HARRIS

CTV News featured hyper-realist artist Peter Harris. The artist had this to say about his work, "A lot of my work lives in these sort of strange transitional spaces that we find ourselves in, like the subway station, an elevator, or an escalator – a space that you occupy for 30 seconds."



## SHARE

Shareholder Association for Research and Education (SHARE) Chief Strategy Officer Shannon Rohan was seen on the front page of *The Globe and Mail's* business section holding corporate Canada accountable for setting interim climate goals and showing their plans to achieve them.

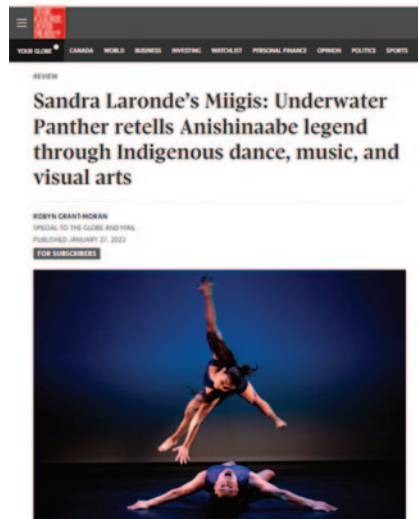
## WILDLANDS LEAGUE

Wildlands League's advocacy work for the preservation of the Southern shore of Hudson's Bay was highlighted in a double spread in *The Globe and Mail*.



## RED SKY PERFORMANCE

Red Sky Performance's *Miigis: Underwater Panther* was reviewed as a "tour de force" in *The Globe and Mail*. The performance retells Anishinaabe legend through Indigenous dance, music, and visual arts, and draws inspiration from a prophecy in which the Anishinaabe must move westward or perish, exploring a journey from the Atlantic to the great lakes.



Miigis: Underwater Panther draws inspiration from a prophecy in which the Anishinaabe must move westward or perish, exploring a journey from the Atlantic to the great lakes. JOHN LAGASSE

# the back page



Kenojuak Ashevak, *Owl's Treasure*, 2002, ink, coloured pencil on paper

## KENOJUAK ASHEVAK

An icon within Canadian art history, **Kenojuak Ashevak** (1927–2013) was a first generation Inuit creator and one of the founding members of **West Baffin Cooperative**, an organization critical to the establishment of a visual arts industry in **Kinngait** (formerly **Cape Dorset**), **Nunavut**. Organized by the **West Baffin Cooperative**, *Kenojuak Ashevak: Life and Legacy* is on view in the **Urbanspace Gallery** until March 25, 2023.



RICHMOND

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[www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com)

# update

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