

**401**  
RICHMOND

# update

Summer 2024 Volume 31, Issue 2





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  
Sean Canepa, Property Manager  
Bob Chandler, Security  
Maria Alejandra Cortes, Events & Communications Administrator  
Sam Elzsid, Parking Lot Attendant  
Shay Rose, Office Administrator  
Pamela Lampkin, Janitorial Services  
Rob Nicholls, Security  
Redentor Paragas, Maintenance  
Jon Price, Security  
Elise Rodgers, Leasing Manager  
Vicki Rodgers, Chief Executive Officer  
Yenislen Rodriguez, Janitorial Services  
Ronel Ruiz, Maintenance  
Saskia Vegter, Urban Agriculture Coordinator  
Laura Marin, Janitorial Services  
Jennifer Ward, Communications & Community Animator  
Jake Whittaker, Maintenance  
Margaret Zeidler, Founder

#### Newsletter

Jennifer Ward, Editor  
Lisa Kiss Design (Studio 408)

Published by:  
Urbanspace Property Group  
401 Richmond St. W., Studio 111  
Toronto, ON Canada M5V 3A8  
tel 416-595-5900 fax 416-595-5904  
[www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com)

#### COVER IMAGE

Jiki Branigan takes in Michael Snow's *Untitled (Walking Woman)* from 1967 at Simon Bentley Fine Art during the Art Hunt over March Break.  
Photo: Tomasz Adamski



RECYCLED  
Paper made from  
recycled material  
FSC® C103151





Cyclists participate in **Cycle Toronto's** annual fundraising ride The Big Toronto Bike Ride (see **Tenant Profile** on page 4).



**2 NEWS**



**3 SPOTTED & APPLAUDED**



**4 TENANT PROFILE**

**6 LISTINGS**

**8 PRESS CHECK**



**9 THE BACK PAGE**

**MOVING IN**

401 welcomes three new artists to the 2nd floor: painter **Lindsay Chambers**, painter and photographer **Crystal Liu**, and ceramicist **William Greaves**.

**MOVING AROUND**

**Work in Culture** and **Ontario Culture Days** are moving from the 3rd floor up to the 4th to share a studio. **Stinson** is doubling the size of their space on the 2nd floor with an expansion into the studio next door. **Book\*hug Press** and **The Musical Stage Company** are relocating from the 3rd to 2nd floor studios. And the **Association of Canadian Publishers** is moving across from their previous space on the 2nd floor.

We say good-bye to **Eva's Initiative** as they leave their 2nd floor space. **Strategy Institute** moves on from their 4th floor studio. And we wish artists **Jose Cifuentes** and **Hugh Bisset** all the best and thank them for opening their studios for 401 events.



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



Steve Hilditch

## CANADALABS LAUNCH

On their 10th anniversary, **Canadaland** is embracing their role in sustaining the future of independent Canadian journalism with the launch of **CanadaLabs**, a hub for the next generation of audio journalists. To share its knowledge, resources, and platform with both emerging and working journalists and audio-makers, Canadaland will help them learn, network, build skills and careers, and develop audiences for their work. CanadaLabs launched with three key initiatives: the **Local Correspondent Audio Contest**, the **Audio Journalism Fellowship Program** in partnership with 401 tenant **Journalists for Human Rights**, and a series of events and workshops.

Chosen from an open call for the **Local Correspondent** program, Canadaland will feature 20 stories from emerging journalists, audio-makers, podcasters, artists, and storytellers from across Canada, telling a story from their communities.

Partnering with Journalists for Human Rights, a media development organization that trains journalists to report on human rights and governance issues in their local communities, the **Audio Journalism Fellowship** is a paid, four-month placement for two students at Canadaland. The fellows will complete a project from start to finish under the mentorship and guidance of the newsroom team.

Canadaland worked with their third floor design agency neighbour **Made By Emblem** to roll out the Canadalabs initiative.

## STEVE HILDITCH INDUCTED AS RAIC FELLOW

The **Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)** inducted **Steve Hilditch** as a Fellow into the **RAIC College**. Fellowship recognizes members for their

contribution to research, scholarship, public service, or professional standing to the good of architecture in Canada, or elsewhere. Steve has dedicated more than two decades to creating projects that help people break barriers to health and community services, and to affordable supportive housing and emergency shelter. His firm **Hilditch Architect Inc.** works almost exclusively with non-profit agencies and municipal governments in delivering services in the Toronto area and beyond.



## VERA FRENKEL SCREENING

**Trinity Square Video** hosted a screening in-person and online of established multidisciplinary artist **Vera Frenkel's** video *The Last Screening Room: A Valentine* (1984), along with a Q&A with the artist and curator **Adrienne Scott**. The piece exists in a dystopian setting where the Canada Council is a subdivision of the Federal Ministry of Health, and storytelling is against the law. The only festival still celebrated in Canada is Valentine's Day, a holiday which also functions as the only reprieve from blanket censorship. On Valentine's Day, citizens are permitted to record an 'electronic valentine' which may be kept temporarily before being submitted to an archive overseen by the Ministry of Culture. The critically acclaimed work was purchased by the **National Gallery of Canada** in 1985.



# spotted & applauded



Left to right Mayor Olivia Chow, Rina Fraticelli and Kelly Langgard, Director and CEO of Toronto Arts Council & Toronto Arts Foundation

## WOMEN IN VIEW ED RECEIVES TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION AWARD

Rina Fraticelli has received The Celebration of Cultural Life Award from the Toronto Arts Foundation. The award recognizes excellence in a senior arts practitioner or leader whose work is a celebration of life through the arts. Rina has a diverse background in the arts including creation, development, training, research, programming, and policy-making. Her career is marked by a commitment to enriching the cultural landscape through initiatives intended to draw voices from the margin to the centre. Rina has worked out of her 401 studio for over 20 years as the Executive Director of **Women in View**, and also led the **Abilities Arts Festival** through their transition into **Tangled Art + Disability**.



REBECCA PEDLEY

## BAND RECEIVES TFVA AWARD

Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts have awarded \$5,000 to the **Black Artists' Networks in Dialogue (BAND)** in support of an installation and related programming by artist, writer, and curator **Chiedza Pasipandodya**. The installation, planned for **Garrison Common Park** this summer, will feature a wooden granary frame, two stainless steel plates with acid etchings and two serpentine stone sculptures with engraved drawings. Conceptually the granary is a 'bank' for people of African descent—a place of abundance and collective care.



## CATE MCGUIRE'S SWIPE WINDOW INSTALLATION WINS DESIGNTO AWARD

Former **Red Head Gallery** member **Cate McGuire** received the **Juror's Choice Award** from **DesignTO** design festival for her installation *Seeing it through* in the window of **Swipe Design | Books + Objects**. The awards recognize design excellence and celebrate the talent, expression, and diversity of designers from Toronto and abroad. Cate's installation was chosen by **DesignTO** juror **Martin Gomes**, an Afro/Latino queer writer and composer who has worked with 401 organizations **JAYU**, **VIBE Arts** and **Volcano**.



## WORK IN CULTURE TURNS 25

**Work in Culture**, a non-profit providing professional assistance and development opportunities to individuals and organizations involved in the arts and cultural sector, marked their 25 year anniversary with a new brand identity, website and a well-attended celebration in the **Urbanspace Gallery**. They've also produced a video series outlining their impact on the cultural sector over the years. The series can be viewed on their YouTube channel [youtube.com/@workinculture](https://www.youtube.com/@workinculture).

# tenant profile



## CYCLE TORONTO Studio 215

At its core, **Cycle Toronto** works to build a city that is safe for all Torontonians to ride a bicycle. To this purpose, they increase access to cycling, build support for improving the cycling network, and foster a culture of cycling. Starting out as the **Toronto Cyclist's Union** in 2008, it was the brainchild of community organizer and activist **Dave Meslin**, frustrated that Toronto didn't yet have a city-wide advocacy group. From there, Cycle Toronto steadily grew from a grassroots membership-based organization, to a big-small nonprofit, gaining charitable status in 2021, the same year they joined the 401 community.

To encourage more Torontonians to take up cycling, Cycle Toronto partners with the City of Toronto on **Bike Month** every June. A celebration of cycling, Bike Month encourages Torontonians to try riding for the first time or to ride more often to school or work, and to experience the positive mental health benefits of being on a bike. The month-long event features dozens of bicycle-themed gatherings across Toronto with guided bike tours and cycling workshops, and kicks off with **Bike to Work Day** early in the month.

Alongside the work they do to first encourage Torontonians to climb on a bike, Cycle Toronto also

focuses on cycling education, offering a large slate of workshops including how to ride, how to tune up a bike, how to ride in all weather conditions, how to plan your route, and how to ride with your family safely. In addition to courses that teach hands-on cycling skills, Cycle Toronto also offers training on how to help them with another core function of the organization: advocacy.

Advocacy is integral to Cycle Toronto's mission to make cycling a safe option for Torontonians in all the City's neighbourhoods. Cycle Toronto's team spends as much time at City Hall as they do on two wheels. They push to keep the City on track with its **Cycling Network Plan** that aims to fill in gaps in the current cycling network, grow into new parts of the city, and upgrade the existing infrastructure. Cycle Toronto's Executive Director, **Michael Longfield**, explains that "in a lot of ways what Cycle Toronto is trying to do isn't different than what the City's already proposed; we're just ensuring the City keeps moving forward and accelerates these things."

The City's Cycling Network Plan is baked into other City strategies including the **Vision Zero Road Safety Plan**. With Vision Zero focusing on reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on Toronto streets,





**Above** Cycle Toronto's Meet & Greet Station at 401 Richmond during Doors Open 2023.

**Right** Cyclists participate in Cycle Toronto's annual fundraising ride The Big Toronto Bike Ride.

**Opposite page** Cycle Toronto supporters joined Toronto Mayor Chow on her ride to City Hall for her first day in office.



Cycle Toronto's hosted their "Coldest Day of the Year Ride," in February aimed to celebrate city cycling in the winter and the recent extension of bike lanes on Bloor Street West, but rather than a chilly ride, cyclists experienced a mild 7C for the annual awareness event. "We were able to ride eight kilometres from Etobicoke to the edge of downtown all on safe bike lanes. That's really something to celebrate," Cycle Toronto's Executive Director **Michael Longfield** told *Toronto Star* after the ride.



Cycle Toronto is paying attention to the dramatic increase in construction due to efforts to increase the housing supply and improve transit systems. Cycle Toronto pushes the City to ensure that people know when work is happening, and that the movement of pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users are prioritized so that construction zones are safe. They also keep the City on task with snow removal on all bike lanes, ensuring safe cycling throughout the year.

In addition to Vision Zero, the Cycling Network Plan is integrated into the City's **TransformTO Climate Action Strategy** with a goal to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. This includes a goal that 75 per cent of school/work trips under 5 km are walked, biked or by transit by 2030. "The City acknowledges that making it easier for people to choose to get out of single occupancy vehicles is a key piece of our climate strategy. Building out a network of safe, connected bikeways is a crucial piece to making that happen," says Michael.

In 2020, Cycle Toronto committed to broadening its work outside of the downtown core. They launched

**Move365** to integrate their three key areas of focus: encouragement and education programs together with their advocacy work as a citywide initiative, helping shift the culture of cycling across the city, not just downtown. Move 365 supports work already happening in communities across Toronto and ensuring these communities are at the decision making table when transportation projects are proposed for their neighbourhoods. Michael states that "if you live in Etobicoke, North York or Scarborough you should have the same access to a local network that can get you to your job, shopping, school, or community centre, for all the same reasons folks downtown ride bikes."

On joining the 401 community, Michael reflects that "it's wonderful being part of a community and culture committed to improving the experience of folks living in the city. It rubs off on people and presents a positive vision for what's possible in the city."

**cyclo.to.ca**

# listings June to August 2024

The Listings Board is your opportunity to communicate with other tenants and keep them informed about what's 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: July 15, 2024

.....

## 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)

BAND Gallery (Studio LL108)  
[bandgallery.com](http://bandgallery.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)

Museum of Toronto (Studio LL01)  
[museumoftoronto.com](http://museumoftoronto.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)

.....

## EXHIBITIONS

continues to JUNE 15  
Critical Distance Centre for Curators  
Azadeh Elmizadeh, Anna Gronau, Shelley Niro, Maryam Tafakory: *Thinking About Forever*  
Curated by Jaclyn Quaresma

Red Head Gallery  
Pearl Van Geest

continues to JUNE 26  
Le Labo  
Andreas Krätschmer, Paul Ruban and Tania Love: *Mémoire*

continues to JULY 13  
YYZ Artists Outlet  
Claudia Chagoya: *EXEQUIAS*  
Yusuf Hassan: *This Time the Dreams on me*

continues to JULY 19  
Tangled Art Gallery  
Felicia Byron: *Harvest-Blue Prints and Magnitudes*

continues to JULY 27  
Urbanspace Gallery  
*Strange Love*  
National Gallery of Canada and Library and Archives Canada

continues to AUGUST 3  
Museum of Toronto  
*Toronto Gone Wild*

JUNE 1-22  
yumart Gallery  
Alice Burton: *Altered Perspectives & other scenes reflecting on life*

JUNE 7-JULY 6  
Abbozzo Gallery  
Alex R.M. Thompson

Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography  
Beau Gomez, Michaëlle Sergile, Morgan Sears-Williams:  
*Proof 30*

JUNE 19-JULY 13  
Red Head Gallery  
James Fowler

JUNE 20-JULY 20  
BAND Gallery  
Elicser Elliott, Curated by Nehal El-Hadi

JULY 1-27  
yumart Gallery  
Gallery Artists

JULY 12-AUGUST 24  
Abbozzo Gallery  
Second Annual Salon Abbozzo

JULY 15-AUGUST 4  
Le Labo  
*Tracés de voyage, an odyssey in augmented reality*

AUGUST 8-SEPTEMBER 7  
BAND Gallery  
Audra Townsend

AUGUST 14-SEPTEMBER 7  
Red Head Gallery  
Gillian Iles

## EVENTS

AUGUST 1-11  
SummerWorks Performance Festival

OCTOBER 5, 7PM TO 7AM  
*Built For Art: Nuit Blanche at 401*

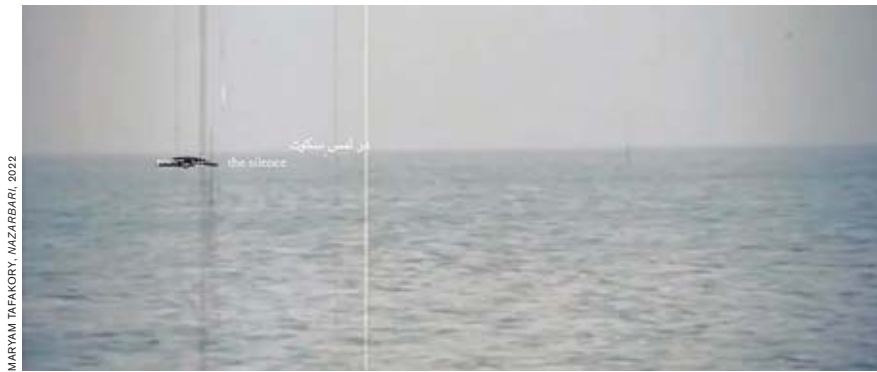




Felicia Byron at Tangled Arts Gallery (to July 19)



Pearl Van Geest at Red Head Gallery (to June 15)



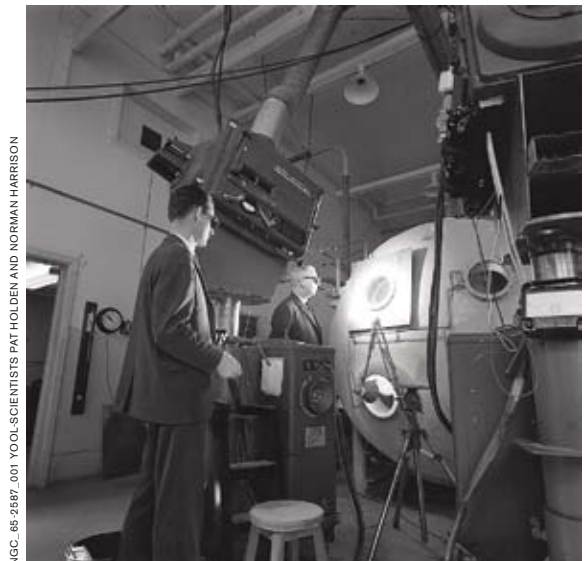
MARYAM TAFAKORY, WAZARBARI, 2022

*Thinking About Forever* at Critical Distance Centre for Curators (to June 15)



BEAU GOMEZ, FREAK BY NATURE

*Proof 30* at Gallery 44 (June 7 to July 6)



NGC\_66-2897\_001 YOOLL-SCIENTISTS PAT HOLDEN AND NORMAN HARRISON

*Strange Love* at Urbanspace Gallery (to July 27)

# press check



ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE, TORONTO STAR

## PROGRESS TORONTO

The advocacy work of **Progress Toronto** was highlighted in a *Toronto Star* article noting the group's new found access to decision makers at City Hall with the election of left-leaning **Mayor Olivia Chow**. Progress Toronto is a non-profit organization advocating and organizing for a more democratic, socially just, and progressive city. They run supporting campaigns to put progressive solutions onto the city's agenda and organizing to win. They also increase transparency and accountability at City Hall by sharing how Councillors are voting on key issues and, in some cases, who is lobbying them. The *Star* notes that "Inside city hall, the group will continue urging councillors of all political stripes to vote for progressive solutions to challenges including housing affordability, homelessness, the city budget and public safety."

## THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

The **Musical Stage Company's** highly successful production of *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* has been added to **Mirvish Productions'** main subscription season, playing at the Royal Alexandra Theatre. The epic musical by **Dave Malloy** based on a portion of **Leo Tolstoy's** *War and Peace*, is the longest running production in the history of the Crow Theatre where it played. "I saw *The Great Comet* at Crow's soon after it opened," said theatre producer **David Mirvish**. "Like everyone else who has seen this show, we were enchanted."



DAHUIA KATZ, THE GLOBE AND MAIL

## OPEN STUDIO

The **Toronto Star** amplified **Open Studio's** call for donations to improve their space and streamline their operations. The public plea was a success with Open Studio surpassing their goal. While the studio side will pause operations for the last half of 2024 to recalibrate, the galleries remain open showcasing artwork and objects for sale by Canadian printmakers.



ARTHUR MOLLA, AZURE

## BLACK ARTIST'S NETWORK (BAND)

*Azure Magazine* catches **BAND's** **Karen Carter** and artist **Frantz Brent-Harris** in front of **BAND's** Offsite installation on the downtown Toronto corner of Adelaide and Charlotte. The public art exhibit is a collaboration between the **Labourers International Union of North America (LIUNA)**, **Fengate Asset Management**, and the **Black Artists' Network in Dialogue (BAND)**. The temporary art program—part of the larger **BAND Offsite** series of installations—transforms an unused glass pavilion (previously used as a sales centre as well as a gallery) into a nearly year-long showcase for emerging Black artists. Set to run until December, the activation will comprise three months-long public art programs. The first features a large-scale work by Toronto-based Jamaican artist **Frantz Brent-Harris** described as "a love letter to Black people and Black ancestors."



BARRY GRAY, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

# the back page

## 2023/24 CAREER LAUNCHER PRIZE RECIPIENT

Roda Medhat is a Kurdish-Canadian artist with a BFA from OCAD University where he specialized in video art, photography, and sculpture/installation. He also studied film production at FAMU Film and Television School, Prague. Through his art, Roda seeks to bridge cultural divides and promote a sense of shared human experience. Roda is seen here in the 401 Career Launcher Prize studio on the 2nd floor with his work *LED FARSH*.



CHERYL RONDEAU

**RODA MEDHAT** Studio 260 [rodamedhat.com](http://rodamedhat.com) / Instagram @reallyroda





RICHMOND

401 Richmond Street West, Studio 111  
Toronto, ON Canada M5V 3A8  
[www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com)

# update



POST

CANADA



Postage paid  
Personalized  
Mail

Port payé  
Courrier  
personnalisé

1682129