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## 2008 JUNCTION ARTS FESTIVAL TO HOLD OPENING NIGHT CEREMONY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

As the Junction commemorates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, honoured guests attend the ceremony: Mayor David Miller, Ontario Minister of Culture Aileen Carroll, City of Toronto Councillor Bill Saundercook (Ward 13), MPP Parkdale-High Park Cheri DiNovo and MP Parkdale-High Park Peggy Nash

**Toronto, ON, September 2, 2008** – The Junction Arts Festival (September 3 to 7, 2008 in Toronto), produced by the Junction Forum for Art & Culture, presents a multi-arts extravaganza like no other and to launch the 16<sup>th</sup> annual festival organizers announce an official opening night ceremony on Wednesday, September 3 at 9:00 p.m., which is set to include many honoured guest speakers, the announcement of the 2008 Juried Art Exhibition winners and the official [murmur] project unveiling.

The opening night outdoor ceremony will be located at the Junction City Square, 2960 Dundas Street West at Pacific Avenue, from atop the Junction City train platform, and the evening's celebrations will begin at 7:00 p.m. with live music entertainment by hot jazz-European gypsy fusion group Gypsophilia, the official ceremony will start at 9:00 p.m. and then guests may enjoy the night until 11:00 p.m.

The opening announcements will feature speakers Mayor David Miller, Ontario Minister of Culture Aileen Carroll, City of Toronto Councillor Bill Saundercook (Ward 13), MPP Parkdale-High Park Cheri DiNovo, MP Parkdale-High Park Peggy Nash, festival executive producer Michael Menegon and Rhonda Nolan (Juried Art Exhibition committee chair), who will announce the exhibition prize winners, with the first prize being a one-year scholarship to the Academy of Realist Art (a \$7,500.00 value).

Michael Menegon will introduce the official launch of the Junction [murmur] project. [murmur] is an international archival audio documentary project that collects and curates stories set in specific locations, as told by people themselves, and all summer long [murmur] has been in the Junction neighbourhood collecting stories, memories and opinions from area residents, ex-pats and visitors.

Councillor Bill Saundercook (Ward 13, City of Toronto) and JFAC Chair states, “The Junction has an incredible history contributing significantly to Toronto’s beginnings, which has had an undeniable influence on the area’s vibrant present. It is the Junction Forum for Art & Culture’s honour to have presented the 2008 centennial celebrations in the Junction, on behalf of the Junction BIA and all of its residents, and we look forward to the festival and more.”

The Juried Art Exhibition, showcasing over 70 visual artists and taking place at Urbanscape Gallery (2959 Dundas St. West) and the Academy of Realist Art (2968 Dundas St. West), the indoor installations and all galleries along Dundas will also be open on Wednesday night.

## THE BIGGEST AND BEST FEST IN THE WEST!

The Junction Arts Festival, which has grown to attract 150,000 visitors annually and will run totally on green power, will take place along Dundas Street West between Keele Street and Quebec Avenue, and will feature free fun and creativity for the entire family within eight distinct categories and more; the Visual Art Exhibitions (starting Wednesday, Sept. 3 and beyond), the Movieola Movie Night (Thursday, Sept. 4), the outdoor Live Music Stages (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and the Dance/Street Performance Artists, the Poetry Peepshow, the KIDZONE, the Green Village, street vendors, and the Historic City (during the weekend street closure on Saturday, Sept. 6 and Sunday, Sept. 7).

**PLEASE NOTE:** For more details and updated schedules of all events please visit, [www.junctionartsfest.com](http://www.junctionartsfest.com).

The 2008 Junction Arts Festival will be supported by title sponsor the Junction Business Improvement Area, and Department of Canadian Heritage Anniversary program, Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Toronto Arts Council, NOW Magazine and The Villager.

The Junction Forum for Art and Culture (JFAC) is an arts presenting organization whose main project is the annual Junction Arts Festival. JFAC was incorporated as a non-profit group in February 2004. The people who make up the Board of Directors of the Junction Forum for Art and Culture are dedicated cultural producers, artists, residents, business owners and politicians all of whom are connected in some way to the Junction.