

877
YONGE
STREET

A New Home for
the Performing Arts



Art Belonging Community

877 Yonge Street is created through a unique partnership between **Tapestry Opera**, **Nightwood Theatre**, and **St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society**, bringing tenants, neighbours, artists, and audiences together. Together we create common ground for deep relationships in performances, community gatherings, and events.



Nightwood Theatre

Canada's preeminent feminist theatre, Nightwood cultivates, creates, and produces extraordinary theatre by women and gender-expansive artists, liberating futures, one room at a time.

Tapestry Opera

Canada's leading developer of new works of opera, Tapestry expands what opera can mean, and nurtures new creations, new creators, and the next generation of artists.

St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society

St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society was formed in 1998 by people who knew that the only way to end homelessness was to build affordable housing. Their innovative approach has succeeded to build 177 geared-to-income housing units and 190 new units in partnership with developers, creating a mixed income community.



THE PLACE

Inspiring Yonge Street

Vision

- A **new attraction** by leading theatre, music, and opera companies
- An affordable space for independent artists
- A gathering place for transformational experiences, walking distance from five diverse neighbourhoods and two TTC hubs

Following the pandemic, Toronto residents are lonelier and more isolated than ever.

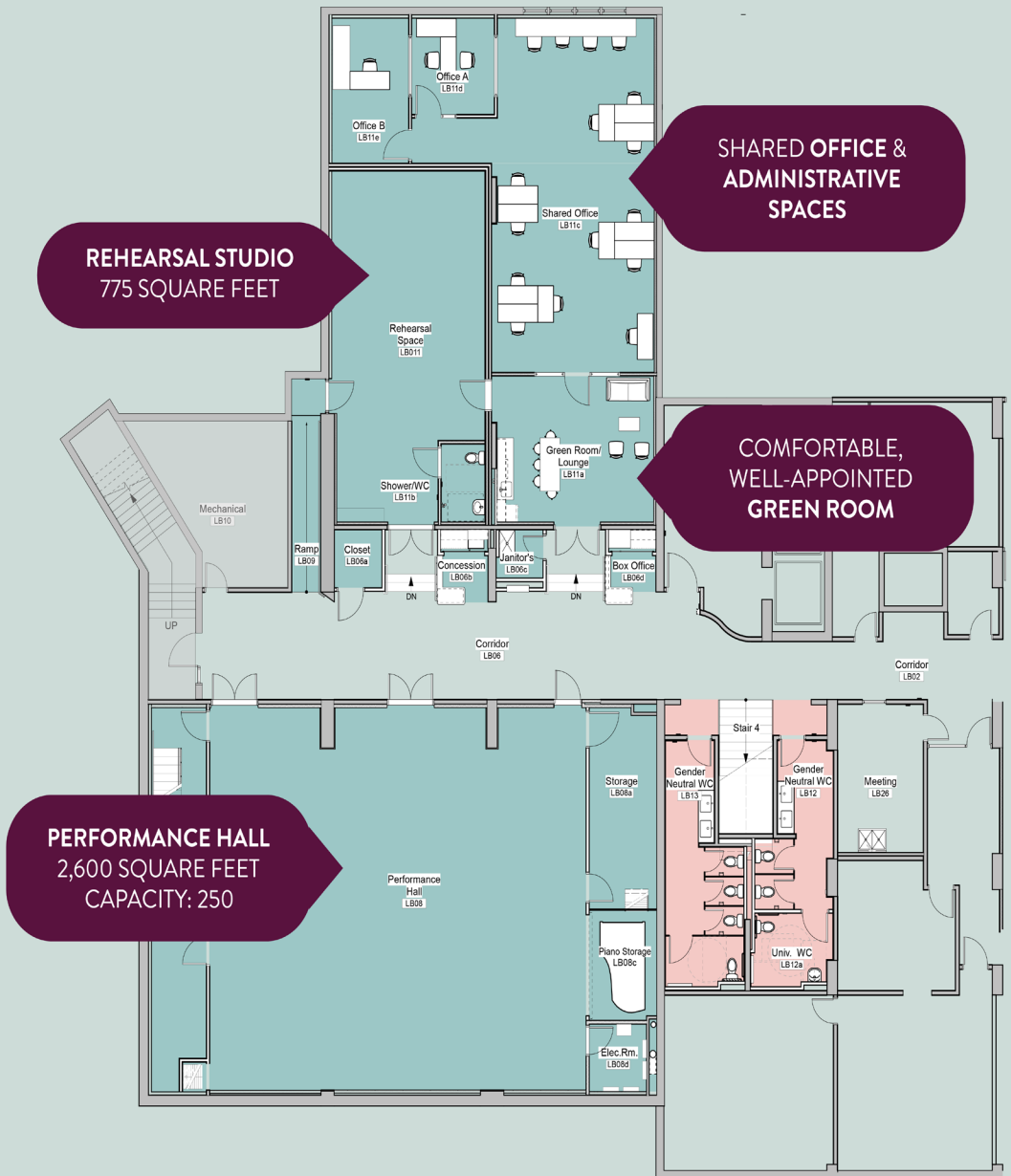
The Toronto Foundation's Vital Signs report states "art should be approached as social infrastructure" to address mental health and well-being and create a sense of community.



THE SPACE

Beautiful Dynamic Intentional

The performance hall will be the most flexible, accessible, and well-equipped theatre of its size in the city.



THE SPACE

Arts for Everybody

Accessible

- Our centrally located space is walking distance from transit and residential neighbourhoods
- All spaces are fully accessible; many are barrier-free
- Thoughtful planning creates a comfortable, welcoming atmosphere

Equitable

- Residency and subsidy programs for rentals for independent and emerging artists support the next generation of creators
- A mandate to support artists from equity-deserving communities creates space for historically excluded perspectives

Sustainable

- State of the art theatre technology dramatically reduces energy consumption
- Retrofitting an existing building gives new life to under-used spaces at a fraction of the energy of a new build
- A solid foundation of partnerships and investment ensures a long life for the project



The 877 Yonge theatre project takes existing underused property in the heart of downtown Toronto to create a flexible, community-based arts space. It is an excellent example of existing building retrofit, a practice that has much less embodied energy than new construction.

The project will create a community hub that supports residents of the building and welcomes the local neighbourhood and the Toronto arts community at large.

Hilditch Architect Inc.

A Sector in Need

Toronto is a world-class city contending with deep disruption to its cultural life. The last four years have seen a housing crisis and dramatic loss of creative space alongside a rapid rise in the cost of living, leaving young, emerging, and independent artists without affordable spaces to hone their crafts.



Our Solution

Arts and culture contribute \$11.3 billion annually to Toronto's GDP and \$27 billion annually to the provincial economy, representing 3.4% of Ontario's GDP.

Cultural events, neighbourhood activations, and free performances bring people together and lift spirits.

877 Yonge Street offers affordable, flexible, and accessible spaces in which to create, imagine, and uplift.



TAPESTRY & NIGHTWOOD

Award-Winning Companies Spanning 45 Years

Nightwood Theatre and Tapestry Opera have deep roots in Toronto and in our communities, with a track record of excellence and direct connections to the city's theatre, opera, dance, musical theatre, and music networks.

We are multi-award-winning organizations, including Dora Mavor Moore, Governor General, Opera Canada Ruby, and Chalmers Awards, garnering accolades for artistic excellence and organizational innovation.

Artistic partners include National Arts Centre, Vancouver Opera, Obsidian Theatre, Victoria Symphony, Sistema Toronto, Canadian Stage, Soulpepper, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Shaw Festival, National Youth Orchestra, Tarragon Theatre, Native Earth Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and other local, national, and international organizations.



R.U.R. A Torrent of Light, 2022. Photo by Dahlia Katz



Andrea Donaldson, Michael Mori, Jaime Martino, Naz Afsahi, 2023.
Photo by Eden Graham



HELP US

Build a Legacy

Our total campaign is \$4 million dollars.
We're nearly there—help us close the final gap!

Forever be part of a vital civic resurgence at Yonge and Davenport, a rapidly developing neighbourhood. 877 Yonge Street is backed by the City of Toronto, making it a stable investment in the public good and the creative future of Toronto.

Your contribution to this campaign will support:

- A venue dedicated to the independent performing arts, accessible to all
- A home for generations of artists and the creation of hundreds of new Canadian works
- Innumerable points of human connection, inspiration, and belonging

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR LEARN MORE

Naz Afsahi, naz@nightwoodtheatre.net
Managing Director, Nightwood Theatre



Our Path

1979

Nightwood Theatre and Tapestry Opera founded

2002

Nightwood and Tapestry partner to share the Ernest Balmer Studio in Toronto's Distillery District

2002–2023

250 organizations and independent artists from across Canada supported

Sep 2022

Partnership with St Clare's formed

June 2023

Council Motion for Section 372 funds is passed, allowing us to envision a new flexible, affordable, and state-of-the-art creative space

April 2024

Tender for construction begins

Jan 2025

**877 YONGE STREET
GRAND
OPENING!**

Tapestry Opera

Staff

Michael Hidetoshi Mori
Artistic and General Director

Jaime Martino
Executive Director

Stephanie Applin
Director of Advancement

Mélanie Dubois
Artistic Producer

Clay Jones
Manager, Communications
& Marketing

Dona Arbabzadeh
Audience & Community
Coordinator

Camille Rogers
Program Manager,
Women in Musical Leadership

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Brian Dawson
Chair

Claire Hopkinson
Vice-Chair

Michael Ford
Treasurer

Chim Alao
Secretary

Ben Diestshi

Juliette Sweeney

Ellen Karp

Ali Kashani

Susan Salek

tapestryopera.com

Nightwood Theatre

Staff

Andrea Donaldson
Co-Executive Artistic Director

Naz Afsahi
Co-Executive Managing Director

Ashley Elliott
Administrator, Operations
& Partnerships

Tsz Ting (Tiffany) Lam | 林紫婷
Metcalf Intern Producer

Jade Silman
Artistic Associate
& Head of Communications

Angela Sun
Digital Content Manager

Charlene Wolf
Head of Partnerships & Giving

Amanda Lin
Program Director, Rising Moon
& Nightwood Innovators

Board

Jill Schoolenberg
Chair

Shreya Lathia
Treasurer

Paul Butler
Secretary

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Devin Jarcaig

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Janice Nathanson

Chantria Tram

nightwoodtheatre.net