



## STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

16.

### Pan Am and Parapan Am Art Exhibits

<b>Date:</b>	September 21, 2015
<b>To:</b>	Toronto Public Library Board
<b>From:</b>	City Librarian

### SUMMARY

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Between June and August 2015, Toronto Public Library hosted 17 art exhibits in 12 locations to celebrate the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games taking place in the City of Toronto. In keeping with the spirit of the Games, these exhibits highlighted the work of local artists in several different categories: indigenous artists; artists of the Americas (Caribbean, Mexican, Central American or South American heritage; artists living with disabilities; and artists creating work on the theme of sports.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

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This report has no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

### DECISION HISTORY

At its November 14, 2014 meeting, the Toronto Public Library Board approved the following motion:

*That the Toronto Public Library Board:*

- 1. requests staff to report back to the Board on the showcasing of the work of local artists in branches during the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, including branches near Poetry Slam and Pan Am events sites.*

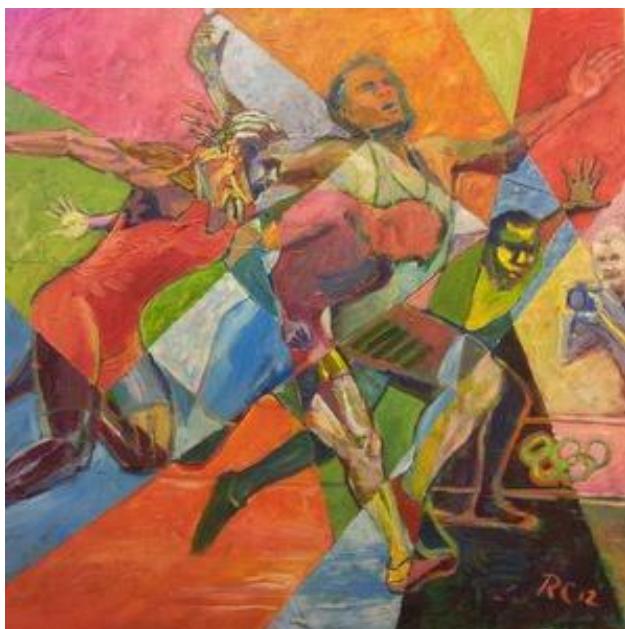
### ISSUE BACKGROUND

Toronto Public Library celebrated the Pan Am Parapan Am Games as an opportunity to engage new audiences and connect with new partners. It undertook two very successful major Showcase Legacy Projects: Poetry Slam – Poetry Saved Our Lives, with poetry teams in eight branches and Spectator Jam Community Live Sites at four branches. Other

initiatives included the Human Library that focused on the sports industry, programming in over 70 branches and art exhibits.

## COMMENTS

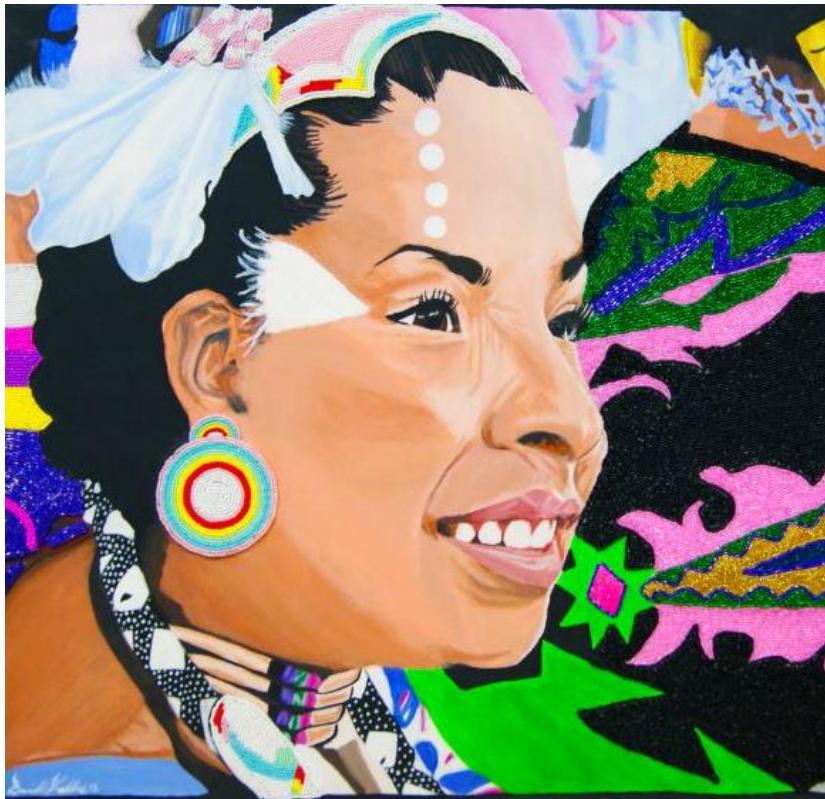
Between June and August 2015, Toronto Public Library hosted 17 art exhibits to celebrate the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games taking place in the City of Toronto. In keeping with the spirit of the Games, these exhibits highlighted the work of local artists in several different categories. The exhibits were hosted at twelve different branches. A few examples of the art are highlighted below.



Artist Richard Comparey's Dynamicworks exhibit at Agincourt Branch featured art on the theme of sports.

This painting of jellyfish by Rita Tazetdinova was part of an exhibit put on by the ADDUS Creative Collective at Riverdale. The artists in the collective all live with disabilities.





Historica Canada – Aboriginal Arts Stories at the Morningside and Parliament Street branches featured the work of young indigenous artists, including this painting of a young woman by Danielle Kehler.



Artist Lindy James stands beside two portraits of women, part of her Caribbean Looking Glass exhibit at S. Walter Stewart Branch.

The exhibits were hosted at Agincourt, Barbara Frum, City Hall, Mimico, Morningside, Mount Dennis, North York Central Library, Parliament Street, Richview, Riverdale, S. Walter Stewart and York Woods branches.

Response to the art exhibits from customers was enthusiastic, appreciative and thoughtful. At Barbara Frum, an exhibit of the photographs of the many faces of Toronto elicited the following comments:

- “the work reminds me of Toronto’s multiculturalism and that we are all one”;
- “such beauty in all the eyes and faces”;
- “I am only 11 years old and amazed by the art show of so many cultures. I’m Somalian. I love how you captured almost every region.”

At City Hall, Pan Am visitors and Torontonians alike were mesmerized by an exhibit from the Esscacia Art Collective, often standing for some time taking in the colours and composition of the art.

The call for Pan Am art exhibits was received very positively by artists from indigenous communities, Central and South America, the Caribbean and artists living with disabilities. Part of the legacy of the Pan Am Games will be continuing to reach out to these communities to exhibit their work at TPL in future years.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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City Librarian