



**NEWS ALERT**

THE 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# HERITAGE TORONTO AWARDS

OCTOBER 30, 2023



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Winners announced for the 2023 Heritage Toronto Awards

Recognizing extraordinary contributions to Toronto's heritage

**October 30, 2023** (Toronto, Ont.) – The winners of the 2023 Heritage Toronto Awards were announced at tonight's award ceremony.

Five winners were named from 46 nominees in three categories: [Public History](#), [Book](#), and [Built Heritage](#). Each category was independently judged by a jury of experts. In addition, a Peoples' Choice Award was announced, selected by Heritage Toronto supporters and event attendees from among the Public History nominees. Thank you to our presenting sponsor **Aird &**

**Berlis** for making this evening possible.

At the heart of this celebration is the recognition that our city's heritage is a dynamic collection of stories waiting to be discovered, celebrated, and passed on to the next generation. Each nominee, in their own way, embodies the spirit of Toronto's heritage and reminds us of the importance of exploring our past while looking to the future.

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## **THE WINNERS**

**The Book Award was presented to:**

[\*The Heart of Toronto: Corporate Power, Civic Activism, and the Remaking of Downtown Yonge Street\*](#), for its vivid portrayal of downtown Yonge Street between the 1950s and 1970s—a time when city leaders, urban activists, and developers attempted to keep it as a relevant destination amid suburban growth and other effects of postwar urbanization.

Author: Daniel Ross

Publisher: The University of British Columbia Press

The Book Award was presented by **LiUNA! Local 183**.

**The Public History Award was presented to:**

[\*A Big Vision for Little Jamaica: Black Cultural History & Mapping Process\*](#), for their comprehensive study of the rich heritage of the Little Jamaica neighbourhood, demonstrating the important connection between cultural practices and the built environment.

Project lead: Jay Pitter

**The People's Choice Award, which includes a \$1,000 prize, was presented to:**

[\*Sketched Out: The Digitized Graffiti Series\*](#), for their exploration of Toronto's underground dance scene of the 1980s. This two-part film series pays tribute to the Twilight Zone nightclub and 23 Hop—two innovative and groundbreaking venues that are indelibly linked to the marginalized communities they served.

Project lead: Colm Hogan

Both the Public History Award and Peoples' Choice Award were presented by **Heritage**

**In 2023, Heritage Toronto presented three awards in the Built Heritage category:**

**The Adaptive Reuse Award** - recognizing projects that meet current needs while maintaining the integrity of the original design vision.

**The Award went to:**

[\*\*\*The Transformation of the Albert Campbell District Library\*\*\*](#), 496 Birchmount Road, for revitalizing a 1970s modernist building and transforming it into a contemporary, integrated, and inclusive community space.

Property Owner: Toronto Public Library

Architecture and Interior Design: LGA Architectural Partners

Indigenous Consultant: Trina Moyan, Bell and Bernard LTD

Indigenous Garden Design and Installation: Miinikaan Innovation and Design

Landscape Architect: Aboud & Associates

Mural Wall: Red Urban Nation Artist Collective

Contractor: Pre-Eng Contracting

The Adaptive Reuse Award was presented by **Woodcliffe Landmark Properties**.

**The Heritage Planning & Architecture Award** - recognizing the successful application of appropriate conservation and planning principles.

**The Award went to:**

[\*\*\*80 Richmond Facade Restoration and Storefront Renovation\*\*\*](#), 80 Richmond Street West, for the skillful reinterpretation of the original 1920s design and structure, bringing to life heritage elements using historical preservation methods.

Property Owner: Dream Office REIT

Heritage Architect: Philip Evans

Heritage Craftsperson/Consultant: Chris Huntley

Project Representative: David Takacs

Facade Condition Assessment: Entuitive

Lighting Designer: Lightstudio

The Heritage Planning and Architecture Award was presented by **Clifford Restoration Ltd.**

**The Crafts and Trades Award** - recognizing the use of construction techniques and materials that are compatible to the building's original architectural qualities.

**The Award went to:**

**[North Wing Coat of Arms Conservation, Legislative Assembly of Ontario Queen's Park](#)**, 111 Wellesley Street West, for the skillful restoration of the intricately carved coat of arms, reviving the Romanesque-Revival ornament to its proper form.

Property Owner: Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Precinct Properties Branch

Architect: +VG Architects

Masonry Conservation Consultants: Capital Conservation Services

Contractor: DJ McCrea

Masonry Conservator: Trevor Gillingwater Conservation Services Inc.

The Crafts & Trades Award was presented by **Aird & Berlis**.

At the ceremony, the Heritage Toronto Board also presented the **Volunteer Service Award** to Erin Mackie for her dedication to the charity. Serving as a program volunteer since 2016 and an Awards juror since 2018, Erin has dedicated over 200 hours to serving Heritage Toronto.

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## THE EVENT

The 48th Annual Heritage Toronto Awards were celebrated by over 300 guests at The Carlu, with the ceremony hosted by award-winning broadcaster and host of Mornings on CBC Music, Saroja Coelho.

The Heritage Toronto Awards brings together leaders, innovators and emerging professionals from across cultural, development, and policy-making sectors to celebrate outstanding achievements in Toronto's heritage. The event is also Heritage Toronto's major fundraiser of the year, raising monies in support of its public programming.

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## About us

Heritage Toronto is a charity and agency of the City of Toronto that builds a better city by bringing people together to explore Toronto's shared past and peoples' lived experiences. Our programs include tours, historical plaques

and online exhibits.

## **CONTACT**

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## **Images** (Available for publication with credit)



80 Richmond Restoration, 2023. Image: Arthur Mola Photography courtesy of Dream.

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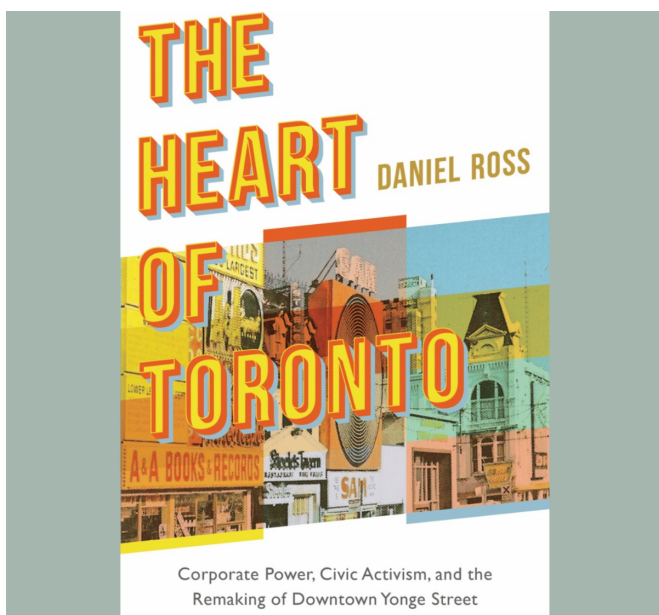
Legislative Assembly of Ontario Queens Park, 2023. Image courtesy of +VG Architects.

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The Transformation of Albert Campbell District Library, 2023. Image: Doublespace photography, courtesy of LGA Architectural Partners.

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Cover of *The Heart of Toronto* by Daniel Ross, 2023. Cover design by Martyn Schmall.



Market Goers Talking with Jay Pitter Placemaking, 2023. Image: Debra Scott, courtesy of Jay Pitter.





Cover of "Back to The Zone", part of *Sketched Out: The Digitized Graffiti Series*, 2023. Cover design by Colm Hogan.

Erin Mackie, Volunteer Service Award recipient, on a Heritage Toronto walking tour, 2019. Image: Heritage Toronto

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