Toronto Arts Council (TAC) is the City of Toronto’s funding body for artists and arts organizations. Since 1974, TAC has played a major role in the city’s cultural industries by supporting a very broad range of artistic activity. TAC grants lead to exhibitions, performances, readings and workshops seen annually by over 9.5 million people throughout the City of Toronto and beyond. Through its ongoing funding, TAC cultivates a rich engagement between artists and audiences.

Arts Spotlight

Ward: Don Valley North
Organization: Turtle House Art/Play Centre
TAC Grant: Newcomer and Refugee Arts Engagement
www.turtlehouseartplaycentre.org

Founded in 2005, Turtle House Art/Play Centre is a community-arts organization serving children and families from refugee backgrounds to explore their creativity and make meaningful connections. Turtle House’s arts programming, which includes painting, clay work/ceramics and music, is committed to celebrating diversity and fostering respect for all ethno-racial, cultural and faith backgrounds. In 2017 at Parkway Forest Community Centre (Don Valley North), Turtle House conducted a 9-week arts program for refugee children ages 4-12 and their parents, with an emphasis on new Syrian refugees. By providing inclusive arts programming to newly arrived immigrants and refugees, Turtle House Art/Play Centre is offering them a sense of community and belonging.
OUR MISSION
Supporting artists and arts organizations with responsive and innovative granting programs.

OUR VISION: CREATIVE CITY, BLOCK BY BLOCK.
Working towards a vibrant and creative city where every neighbourhood is enriched by the transformative benefits of the arts.

In 2017, TAC:

- Distributed over $18 million in grants
- Supported 537 arts organizations and collectives and 492 professional artists
- Funded approximately 20 activities in ward 17, Don Valley North

With an application success rate of 43%, TAC funds only a fraction of the artistic activity happening in the city. With more funds, we can invest more in the organizations and artists who are helping to build our vibrant, creative city.

The arts are not only important to Toronto artists, but they are important to Toronto residents. Toronto Arts Foundation’s Arts Stats 2018 revealed that nearly 90% of Torontonians believe that the arts make Toronto a better place to live, and more than 75% of them would like to see more opportunities to attend the arts in every Toronto ward.

We are happy to talk to you further about the impact of the arts on the city, its value for Toronto residents and what Toronto Arts Council is doing to strengthen the city through the arts.

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Alexander Bordokas, Artistic Director, Maracatu Mar Aberto; photo by Sean Howard