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: Scarborough Centre
Organization: Young People’s Theatre
TAC Grant: Theatre
www.youngpeoplestheatre.ca

Founded in 1966, Young People’s Theatre (YPT) is Toronto’s oldest continuously operating professional theatre company. Over its 50 year history, YPT has been a major catalyst for the development of theatre created specifically for young people. In 2017, YPT, in partnership with the Birkdale Residence Shelter (Scarborough Centre), offered drama workshops for the shelter’s resident young people and students from its affiliate Edgewood Public School. The project included three components: weekly drama-based programming for children and female adolescents living in the shelter; in-school drama workshops; and connections to drama programs once children and female adolescents leave the shelter. Through its facilitated play and drama activities at Birkdale Residence, Young People’s Theatre is building self-esteem, confidence and positive self-expression for sheltered youth in Toronto.
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 21, Scarborough Centre

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