TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

Women Leading

Women Leading brings together advocates for gender equity in the arts to create and exhibit new, innovative contemporary artworks, public programming, and learning experiences led by women and non-binary artists.

As a female-founded and led organization, TBA believes firmly in the need for equitable representation of artists in contemporary art and is committed to creating opportunities for marginalized artists to thrive and reach new audiences. Women and non-binary artists from diverse backgrounds need our support to create and exhibit work that builds understanding, fosters dialogue, and helps us to imagine a more equitable future.

Women and non-binary artists continue to be drastically under-represented in the Canadian and global arts landscape.



Images: Artists Hangama Amiri, Sonia Boyce, Karen Tam, and Cecilia Vicuña.

65%
average rate that Canadian women visual artists earn compared to male peers

13.7%
of living artists represented by galleries in Europe and North America are women

25%
share of women artists shown at the past four years of Art Basel fairs

2%
total global art auction spending on women artists



Since 2022, the Women Leading Initiative has supported 30+ newly commissioned projects by women and non-binary artists.





78% of TBA 2024 exhibition artists identified as women or non-binary







Justine A. Chambers & Laurie Young, “One hundred more,” (2019). Sophiensale Berlin. Photography: Oliver Look | Performed as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art 2024 (top left); Elina Waage Mikalsen, “I lay my ear against the weave’s ear,” (2019). Performance activation at the Auto BLDG, 9th Floor as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art 2024 | Commissioned by TBA (top right); Judy Chicago Smoke Sculpture™ entitled “A Tribute to Toronto,” (2022) | Attracted over 22,000 attendees to Sugar Beach (middle); Cristina Flores Perscorán, “Acariciar el corazón del hueso (Caressing the heart of the bone),”2023-2024. Performance activation at the Auto BLDG, 9th Floor as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art 2024 | Commissioned by TBA (bottom left); Difference of a Shared Spirit, September 21, 2024. Featuring: Maria Hupfield, olivia shortt, and SA Smythe. Program held at 32 Lisgar Street as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art 2024 | Commissioned by TBA (bottom right).

Take the lead

Women Leading is a community of contemporary art supporters who believe passionately in advancing gender equity in the arts. By joining this community, members contribute directly to supporting projects by women and non-binary artists. Members also gain access to exclusive, year-round programming featuring TBA artists, curators, and partners.

Women Leading is a collective philanthropic initiative that enables our community to work together to make change. Together, we aim to raise $150,000 to support the work of women and non-binary artists to be featured in the 2026 Biennial. Priority will be placed on supporting the work of artists facing multiple barriers including those identifying as Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, and 2SLGBTQ+.

Join Women Leading with a contribution of $5,000* per Biennial and gain access to exclusive member benefits:

- Charitable tax receipt
- One (1) ticket to TBA's 2026 Opening Event
- Access to guided exhibition tours
- Access to Patrons' Trips
- Exclusive access to the Biennial Donor Program of special events leading up to and during the Biennial
- Recognition:
  - Donors & Supporters webpage
  - Entry signage at owned Biennial sites
  - Printed publications
- Women Leading recognized in signage and promotional content for supported artist projects
- Women Leading recognized verbally at select public events





Contact us at giving@torontobiennial.org to join today!

*Note: Your support may be pledged over a period of two years.