

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2016

Textile Museum of Canada proud to announce creative partnership with Toronto agencies ArtHeart Community Art Centre, Jumblies, Sistering, Sketch, and Workman Arts

The Textile Museum of Canada is proud to announce the launch of an innovative creative program in partnership with local non-profit agencies ArtHeart Community Art Centre, Jumblies, Sistering, Sketch, and Workman Arts. Presented in conjunction with the TMC's current exhibition *Home Economics: 150 Years of Canadian Hooked Rugs*, this important community-engaged initiative highlights the longstanding connections between craft, social enterprise and community development at the heart of this traditional folk practice. Encouraging creative expression and skill-building for individuals from at-risk and underserved communities, participants in this series of workshops will learn and adapt the techniques of rug hooking alongside contemporary artists and rug hookers Hannah Epstein, Heather Goodchild, and Jen Manuell.

The program is part of the Textile Museum of Canada's ongoing focus on real world impact, addressing community needs and social issues. "The inspiration for this partnership is a vision of public engagement that creates cultural and civic value beyond our walls." says TMC Executive Director Shauna McCabe, "This project extends the museum in ways that are of direct relevance to the community, working with each of our partners to offer their clients meaningful and transformative opportunities for creative participation – a process that will, in turn, inevitably transform the museum." The program is presented by the Textile Museum of Canada through the generous support of Ruth Mandel - WHO GIVES Fund complemented by the Private Giving Foundation, TD Wealth. Partnerships with local agencies were facilitated by ArtBridges.

An additional rug hooking workshop is open to the public and will take place at the Textile Museum on Saturday, February 6 from 10 am- 4 pm, an introduction to creating and hooking incredible patterns using a simple grid with Jen Manuell. Manuell is an award-winning fourth generation rug hooker and has taught for more than a decade. The registration fee is \$120 for members and full time students, and \$130 for the general public and includes a light lunch and materials package with rug hook, rug backing, multi-coloured wools and handouts. Register online at www.textilemuseum.ca/programs or call 416-599-5321 x2228 by February 1, 2016.

The Textile Museum of Canada is located in downtown Toronto (55 Centre Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2H5) and is open daily 11-5 pm, Wed 11-8 pm. Visit www.textilemuseum.ca for more information regarding all of our exhibitions and programs.

- 30 -

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About the Textile Museum of Canada

The Textile Museum of Canada has a 40-year history of exploring ideas and building cultural understanding. Connecting contemporary art and design to international textile traditions, this national museum is one of Canada's most engaging arts institutions welcoming thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world each year. The Museum's permanent collection spans 2,000 years and consists of over 13,000 artifacts from virtually every country and region, uniquely positioning the Museum to speak to global culture as well as our increasingly global communities. A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the TMC is as "high tech" as "high touch" – recognized for its innovation in the development of landmark educational, research and creative initiatives.

About our partners

ArtHeart Community Art Centre

ArtHeart is a stabilizing presence in the community of Regent Park, providing free visual arts education, programs, materials as well as sustenance to children, youth, adults and seniors, ensuring a supportive environment in which participants can create and learn, build self-esteem and develop life skills.

Jumblies/MABELLearts

Jumblies is a community-focused arts organization that highlights inclusive participation as well as artistic process and product, engaging a variety of cultural traditions as well as other sectors such as social and health services, education and urban development. Jumblies' offshoot MABELLearts, situated central Etobicoke, hosts the Sewing Room that undertakes a variety of textile projects.

Sistering

Sistering operates a multi-service women's center for homeless, at risk and socially isolated women in Toronto. Core services offered address basic needs for daily living, housing support services, primary healthcare, counseling, individual advocacy and employment readiness.

Sketch

SKETCH is a community arts development initiative engaging young people who are street-involved homeless and on the margins, creating opportunities to experience the transformative capacity of the arts, build leadership and economic self-sufficiency in the arts, and cultivate social and environmental change through the arts.

Workman Arts

Workman Arts empowers aspiring, emerging and established artists with mental illness and addiction issues to develop and refine their art practice through multifaceted arts training programs and public performance/exhibition opportunities in five disciplines: music, theatre, visual, literary and media arts.

Funders

Ruth Mandel - WHO GIVES Fund

Philanthropist Ruth Mandel created the WHO Gives Fund to reflect and advance her passionate advocacy of issues such as "generosity, the protection of women and social justice," targeting support for specific transformative initiatives and causes she is personally engaged in.

Private Giving Foundation – TD Wealth

The first donor-advised funds launched by a financial institution in Canada, the Private Giving Foundation is an independent public charity dedicated to encouraging charitable giving, revolutionizing models of philanthropic leadership.