



**YORKVILLE MURALS UNLEASHES "NO EMPTY SPACES"
FESTIVAL TRANSFORMS 50,000 SQ. FT OF BLANK SPACE INTO ARTS, MUSIC & DANCE**

*Toronto's Most Captivating Art and Muralism Festival Returns with a Bang on August 26-27th
Featuring a Wide Range of Free Programming and a Block Party*

AUGUST 2, 2023 (Toronto, ON) – An electrifying explosion of creativity and joy is coming to Toronto as [Yorkville Murals](#) (YVM), the city's most captivating art and muralism festival, announces its spectacular programming for the August 26-27th festival. Igniting the city with an all-new theme called **No Empty Spaces**, the festival is taking 50,000 square feet of blank space and transforming it into a remarkable weekend of arts and entertainment.

"No Empty Spaces" is more than just a theme; it's a bold declaration of our commitment to filling every inch of Yorkville with vibrant art, entertainment, and contagious enthusiasm," exclaimed Alan Ganey, Founder of Yorkville Murals. "For five incredible years, we've meticulously planned and strategized to bring you an outdoor entertainment zone like no other, where you can dance, sing, and play alongside our passionate community."

Presented by INK Entertainment & Tagliatella Galleries, in partnership with Bloor-Yorkville, Yorkville Murals will leave no space untouched by creativity. Best of all, every single initiative is entirely FREE, making it accessible to everyone.

Torontonians will be transported into an enchanting world of art and celebration as Yorkville Avenue comes alive with boundless energy, where every step leads to a thrilling surprise. From Bellair Street to Hazelton Avenue, Yorkville Murals is working with a number of artists to transform the streets into an immersive cultural wonderland, inviting guests to unleash their inner artist, dancer, and dreamer.

EXCITING PROGRAMMING AWAITS:

ART on Yorkville Avenue presented by Bloor Yorkville BIA

Prepare to be blown away as Yorkville Avenue between Bellair St & Hazelton Ave transforms into a mesmerizing realm of world-class murals, interactive installations, and pop-up retail delights. Forget traffic; the avenue will transform into a pedestrian paradise from August 26-27, 2023, from 10 am to 9 pm.

Some of the highlights in this zone include:

Murals Courtyard at 99 Yorkville Ave

Step into a breathtaking two-level interior courtyard where seven brilliant muralists will unleash their artistic visions like never before. Enjoy a visual feast and discover the work

of Matt Gondek, Mikael B. Shelby and Sandy, Jason Botkin, Ola Volo, Whatisadam, and Mateo - available for view from the street 24/7.

Hummer DJ Booth presented by Redbull

Dance to the rhythm of local DJs spinning high-energy beats inside a Hummer truck, while break dancers enhance the festival experience with their vibrant performances. This initiative is presented by Red Bull.

Retail Pop-Up Experiences

Explore captivating retail containers featuring **YVM Merch**, free temporary tattoos and a lounge presented by **W Hotel**, creative jewelry by **Steff Eleoff**, and Artsy sustainable products by **CYRC Design**. And don't miss the colorful beauty treatments by **Majesty's Pleasure's** pop-up truck!

Mini Golf & Games

Challenge friends on the exciting mini-golf course created in collaboration with Berlin-based artist **Kirsten McCrea** and presented by Perrier. Participate and enjoy free sips from Perrier to stay refreshed! Challenge friends to other games including life-sized chess and Tic-Tac-Toe.

Live Painting Areas

Witness art come to life as Montreal-based artist **Dalkhafine** invites visitors to draw cute tattoos on funky characters. Brazilian artist **Elvis Mourao** will captivate audiences by painting a collection of amusing monsters right before their eyes.

Inflatables

Gaze up in awe as two giant eyes overlook all the action on Yorkville Ave! The inflatable sculptures will grace Majesty's Pleasure rooftop patio located at 102 Yorkville Ave.

Sculptures

Vancouver-based artists **David and Jordan Doody** will bring contemporary sculptures to different sections of Yorkville Ave and 148 Cumberland Parkade, adding an extra dose of excitement to the neighborhood.

99 Yorkville Ave | Yorkville Murals Courtyard

Available for view from the street all day and all night. Discover the work of seven different muralists inside YVM intimate courtyard. Murals on view: **Matt Gondek, Mikael B, Shelby and Sandy, Jason Botkin, Ola Volo, Whatisadam** and **Mateo**.

Also Located inside Yorkville Murals Courtyard:

Cry Baby Talks

Visit the Murals Courtyard (Mezzanine – 2nd floor) on August 27, from 1 pm to 3 pm, for Cry Baby Talks. Moderated by **Meghan Yuri Young**, this immersive experience focuses

on the significant cultural contributions of the Cry Baby project in Toronto. Hear from curators and artists who have participated in the project and dive deep into both the business and artistic side. Free entrance on a first-come-first-served basis with limited capacity.

Cry Baby Pop-Up – Free Cocktails

Keep the celebration going with the Cry Baby Pop-Up at the Murals Courtyard (Mezzanine – 2nd floor) on August 27, from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Mr. Brainwash At Tagliatella Gallery

Come check out Tagliatella Galleries at 99 Yorkville Ave between 10am – 6pm on August 26 & 27 and take in the art work of world renowned street artist **Mr. Brainwash**.

Bellair St | Family Fun

A Block-Long Game of Hopscotch!

Presented by Bloor-Yorkville, Accessible 24/7 on August 26 & 27: From Cumberland to Yorkville Ave, YVM is turning Bellair St into a challenging and interactive massive game of hopscotch. This family-friendly activity is free and accessible 24/7 during the festival days, making it perfect for endless fun with loved ones.

Cumberland Parkade | Block Party

YVM Block Party is a complete take-over of Cumberland Parkade. For one day only on August 27, art, music, and food will take over Yorkville into a fun open-air event. In case of rain, the event will be postponed to Sunday August 28.

YVM Block Party, presented by Hennessy

On Saturday, August 26th, from 5 pm to 11 pm, brace for the ultimate party atop the 148 Cumberland Parkade! Dance the night away under the stars with free DJs, captivating entertainment, and an electrifying open-air atmosphere.

Tickets available online as of August 8th at yorkvillemurals.com under the Block Party link in the main menu.

Block Party Artists:

“RELAX” Inflatable Sculpture by **Ben Johnston** (Toronto)

Sculptures by **David and Jordan Doody** (Vancouver)

Live painting by **JARUS** (Toronto)

Paul Jackson (Toronto)

Mony Zhakour (Toronto)

Art installation by **Sage Barnes** (Kansas City)

Additional Projects

Yorkville Murals is transforming the entire Bloor Yorkville neighborhood into a mesmerizing mecca of public art. These artistic wonders are created in collaboration with Yorkville Village,

Manulife Centre, W Hotels, The Hazelton Hotel, Four Seasons Hotels, and more. These spectacular installations will expand the footprint of Yorkville Murals, taking the excitement to new heights.

Art Installation by Jordan Sook presented by Yorkville Village

Discover the mesmerizing "Natural Selection," an 8-foot sphere composed entirely of basketballs, exploring the inherent human desire to reach new heights and pursue personal and collective elevation. Located at Yorkville Village Atrium, 55 Avenue Road, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Mural by produced by Victoria Sequeira presented by Four Seasons Hotel

Become immersed in the allure of the South of France with a mural that captures the captivating beauty and vibrant spirit of the region. Located at Four Seasons Hotel, 60 Yorkville Ave, available for view from the street 24/7.

Art Installation by Julia Molson presented by Manulife Center

Embark on a journey of art and nature with a stunning array of handwoven bespoke rugs shaped like snakes, exploring the complex symbolism of these fascinating creatures across cultures and history. Located at Manulife Center, 55 Bloor St W (Food court hallway), from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Mural by Ness Lee presented by Anndore House

Be moved by the poetic fusion of figures and landscapes as Ness Lee's mural invites visitors to become a part of each other's worlds, intertwined in the journey of life. Located at Anndore House, 15 Charles Street East, available for view from the street 24/7.

LISTING INFORMATION

Yorkville Murals

Date:	Saturday August 26th - Sunday August 27th
Location:	Yorkville Avenue
Time:	10am - 10pm
Road Closure:	Yorkville Avenue between Bellair St and Hazelton Ave Friday August 25 to Monday August 28
Price:	Free
Event Link:	yorkvillemurals.com
Images:	Here
Social Media:	@yorkvillemurals

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About Yorkville Murals:

Toronto's Yorkville Murals is an annual cultural event that celebrates contemporary muralism and public art. Through the creation of artistic murals in Yorkville, and the implementation of cultural activations such as art installations, art talks, and art exhibitions, this project focuses on making Yorkville a landmark in Toronto for public art and an ultimate tourist destination.

The event is presented by Tagliatella Galleries and INK Entertainment, and organized in partnership with the Bloor-Yorkville Business Improvement Area. YVM builds on Yorkville's reputation as a historic enclave of Toronto's early twentieth century art scene. The event has been designed as a safe, self-guided experience in the heart of Toronto.

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