

COMMUNITY

Seeking INspiration and INput for the future of Arts and Culture in Brampton

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BRAMPTON-On February 1, the City of Brampton launched an online survey, part of a wider public engagement strategy for the development of Brampton's first Culture Master Plan, a community-driven vision for arts and culture that will guide the delivery of municipal cultural services and investments for the next ten years.

With more than 70 engagement opportunities throughout February and March 2018, the City is committed to capturing the community's perspectives on arts and culture in Brampton, as well as exploring values and aspirations for the future. Other opportunities for participation include stakeholder workshops

and pop-up engagements in neighbourhoods and at events across the city. Details on how to get involved can be found on the Culture Master Plan website at www.brampton.ca/culturemasterplan.

Spearheading engagement is the industry-leading team of Lord Cultural Resources and Nordicity, who were retained by the City in fall 2017 to expertly guide the development of the plan, which will be complete in June 2018. In addition to providing strategic direction for cultural development, the plan is an important component of the City's comprehensive planning vision for growing an innovative, connected and dynamic global city.



"Arts and culture create jobs, drive economies and are a \$28.5 billion industry in Ontario. There are exciting opportunities all around us in Brampton. I encourage all our residents to get involved and participate in the creation and support of our very first Culture Master Plan. Together let's be

bold and create an inspired shared future for arts and culture in Brampton!"-Mayor Linda Jeffrey

"The Culture Master Plan is an opportunity to reframe and focus the ways in which we drive and invest in arts and culture, to build a great city. Public involvement is critical

to ensuring that this plan is community-led, unique and exciting. Brampton is poised to become a cultural destination in Ontario, building on the immense creative talents and resources that make up our community."-Bob Darling, Director, Economic Development and Culture

Markham Public Library CEO honoured at Ontario Library Association Gala Awards



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MARKHAM-Markham Public Library CEO Catherine Biss was named the 2018 recipient of the W.J. Robertson Medallion at the Ontario Library Association's Gala Awards. The medallion is awarded to a librarian who demonstrates outstanding leadership in the advancement of public library service in Ontario.

"Catherine has helped revolutionize and digitize literacy in Markham," says Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with her and learning from her. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement in excellence. I cannot wait to see where she takes the Markham Public Library next."

Catherine began her career at Markham Public Library (MPL) in 1996 and has been CEO since 2002. During this time, she has worked to position the Library as an essential player in community success for the City of Markham. Her vision for innovative and collaborative library service has resulted in a number of advancements at MPL, all of which are focused on customer experience and community

engagement.

The Customer-Centred Classification System (C3) enhances the customer's browsing experience while increasing efficiency in collection maintenance processes. The Customer Service Revolution (CSR) reimagined the Library's approach to customer service by rethinking procedures, policies, services and staff roles. Both of these projects – C3 and the CSR – earned the Library the Ministry of Culture's Innovation Awards in 2009 and 2015 respectively. The CSR project also won the Institute for Public Administration of Canada Gold Award for Innovation in 2016 the first municipality to win the IPAC gold level award. Catherine led the early adoption of Radio-frequency identification based self-service technology which has enabled the Library to achieve high levels of efficiency and successful operations. MPL was one of the first library systems in Canada to implement dedicated professional Community Development roles to transform the Library's relationship with the community and refocus library services outwards. These

initiatives reflect Catherine's vision of library services and ensure that MPL is one of the most highly used and respected library systems in Ontario.

"Under Catherine's leadership, the Library has been innovative in its operations and contribution to the great reputation Markham has in service delivery to our residents," says Brenda Librecz, Commissioner, Community & Fire Services.

Catherine has been part of the national library landscape for many years contributing her leadership through roles that include Chair of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (2012 and 2013) and currently, as Chair for the Centre of Equitable Library Service where she advocates on behalf of those with print disabilities. She actively supports leadership development in her mentorship of aspiring library leaders. Catherine has demonstrated lifelong commitment and passion to libraries and community building that has influenced and contributed to the growth of vibrant and innovative libraries in Markham and throughout Canada.

Carrom Canada Open Tournament in April

By Francis D'Costa

MARKHAM - Carrom Canada's Open tournament will be held at the Edward Village Hotel in Markham (404 & Hwy 7) on the 14th and 15th of April 2018. This is the fourth consecutive competition held at this venue, with the support of Markham Budget Chairman, Councillor Logan Kanapathi and Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong. This year Page One News is the official media. Jessica Wang, Catering Manager at Edward Village Hotel, has been a tremendous support to our cause in popularising this game.

The tournament will feature three competitions namely - Men's Singles, Women's Singles and Men's Doubles. Last three tournaments' winner Louis Fernandes starts strong favourite but he is likely to face tough competition if some of the players from India, who have shown interest, turn up for the event. We already have 4 USA entries registered. Three of them Murali Balasubramanyam, Dr. Shivaram Gowdagaree and Subramanian Laxminarayanapuram represented USA in World Cup competitions. UmakanthPandurangaiah, a fine player from Richmond, USA was the first entry and should not be taken lightly. Shad Ahmed and Moaz Shaikh, two of our Canadian top ranked players, have registered too. Both of them in previous tournaments entered the last four.

Expected are heavy weights Shibu Jose and Sam Malliseti from USA to join. We are also



hoping two times runner-up Ishan Mohd from Nova Scotia will join the competition too.

The women's competition has been varying in consistent entries from players and in the past, we had 3 different winners. Saroj Parikh from USA, the most sporting women player took part in all the competitions and entered the last four each time.

This tournament is the only competition in the world which is conducted on a paperless scoring system, brainchild of our very own Shad Ahmed. The scores are entered on iPads and the entries are directly computed in the scoring system and on the web. This way fans can follow the game board by board anywhere in the world. We also broadcast the games live. In fact, we have been broadcasting our Friday Nite in Canada sessions live for almost three years and have, on an average over 700 people on a given day following us live.

For more information on the tournament which is open to anyone in the world is on our website www.carromcanada.com, Facebook page or reach Francis D'Costa at 416-880-0928.