

## **SKETCH Draws Attention to Youth and the Arts in Communities Across Ontario with a \$360,000 OTF Grant**

**Toronto** - SKETCH is honoured to receive a three-year \$360,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2009. Funding from the grant will support SKETCH's programs that nurture and strengthen the voluntary sector by providing innovative, creative learning and skill-building opportunities to homeless and street-involved youth in Toronto as well as sharing its framework to help other groups in 10 locations across Northern and Southern Ontario. This exciting new project will help build creative bridges between youth services and arts organizations in the participating communities.

The groups SKETCH will work with to help young people build the skills that will help them find artistic fulfilment **and** employment opportunities as well are: The Mess (London); Myths and Mirrors Community Arts, (Sudbury); reCreate (Hamilton); Sault Ste. Marie Arts Council (Sault Ste. Marie); and Outer City Arts (Durham Region). Other communities participating in the program are: York Region, Halton-Peel Region, Manitoulin Island, Thunder Bay and northern First Nations communities in collaboration with De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre.

This three-year funding initiative will enable SKETCH to increase its capacity to provide youth with much needed opportunities in training, artistic production, employment, leadership and mentorship programs, among others. Strategies include:

- ❖ Training, supervising, and mentoring emerging youth artists
- ❖ Increasing youth employment through SKETCH's Future Options Program
- ❖ Building community partnerships and encouraging inter-agency referrals
- ❖ Exhibiting youth art, and training youth in marketing and promoting
- ❖ Partnering with external youth employment initiatives, professional artists, and arts organizations
- ❖ Engaging artists as community artists and peer leaders

A leading grant-maker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org)