

# Earl Bales Park Brightens Summer with New Mural

Media and public invited: July 31, 6:00 p.m. unveiling at Earl Bales Park

## Media Release:

Toronto, July 27, 2016

**Park People and its partners are unveiling a new mural at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park during this weekend's Multicultural Celebration, free performances highlighting North York's diverse communities.**

When: July 31, 2016: 6:00 p.m. mural unveiling; 5:00 p.m. pre-show kid's activities; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. multicultural performances

Where: Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, Earl Bales Park, [map](#)

What: Unveiling new mural that reflects energy of community during Multicultural Celebration

On July 31, the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park will bring together the many communities that call the park their second home. For the first time, the walls of the Amphitheatre will feature vibrant images that capture the energy of the community. Park People coordinated the mural project in partnership with StreetARToronto, SKETCH and Friends of Earl Bales Park. The mural is a SPARK project for the Cultural Hotspot in partnership with the City of Toronto.

Earl Bales Park is one of the largest and most used parks in the city. The Barry Zukerman outdoor amphitheatre has 1,500 seats, a unique feature for a Toronto park. Angie Buado, Coordinator of Friends of Earl Bales Park says: "The Amphitheatre is the heart of this park. Finally, this performance space will capture the spirit of the park and the community."

With funding and administrative support provided by the City of Toronto's StreetARToronto program, Park People developed the mural with SKETCH, a community arts initiative that engages young people who live homeless or on the margins to experience the transformative power of the arts, in consultation with the local community. SKETCH Lead Artist Brad Longmore/Skratch said: "It was so great to be working in such an inspiring outdoor space. While we were there, I got to meet and see so many people come and just enjoy being in the park close to nature. What a well loved site!"

For more information: Janice Bearg, Park People's Program Manager, 416-583-5776, [jbearg@parkpeople.ca](mailto:jbearg@parkpeople.ca)

## Park People

Park People is an independent charity that builds strong communities by animating and improving parks, placing them at the heart of life in the city.

## SKETCH:

Founded in 1996, SKETCH is recognized locally, provincially, and nationally for its unique, capacity-focused approach to youth engagement and organizing through the arts. As a community arts initiative, SKETCH engages young people who live homeless or on the margins to experience the transformative power of the arts, build leadership and self-sufficiency in the arts, and cultivate social and environmental change through the arts.

## Cultural Hotspot:

From May through October 2016, the Cultural Hotspot shines a spotlight on arts, culture and the community in North York, inspiring new ideas about where culture thrives in Toronto. The City of Toronto has partnered with us on the Barry Zuckerman Amphitheatre mural. Other projects include theatre, art, dance, youth mentorship and employment, local festivals and more. Projects like ours will enable the local community and visitors to discover Hotspot neighbourhoods like North York to experience arts, culture, fantastic food, heritage and parkland.

## StreetARToronto (StART)

StreetARToronto is a pro-active program that treats streets as vital public space and aims to develop, support, and increase awareness of street art and its indispensable role in generating social and economic benefits, adding beauty and character to Toronto's communities, and counteracting the negative effects of graffiti vandalism.

## Friends of Earl Bales Park:

Friends of Earl Bales Park is a volunteer group dedicated to improving Earl Bales Park for everyone and connecting with the park community.

