

JAMII 2019 SEASON REVIEW



2019 highlights

Jamii's 9th season of programming

88 Artists

48 Workshops

400+ Participants

1500+ Audience members

22 Events



By Isorine Marc - Jamii's Founder, Executive & Programming Director

Reflecting on 2019

Reflecting on 2019 is inspiring: it has been a beautiful year for Jamii; one of growth, enriching partnerships, exciting projects in our community, and throughout the Province. A year during which one of our dreams came true: the creation of a mobile theatre for our community, the Kisanii Hub. Last but not least, in 2019, Jamii refined its goal of both building community through multiple artistic initiatives, and nurturing young women in leadership.

In 2019, we continued collaborating with our key community partners: the St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, the Toronto Public Library (St Lawrence Branch), the St Lawrence Market BIA, and our local schools: Market Lane P.S., Downtown Alternative School, and St Michael's Catholic School. We also developed partnerships with artistic institutions local to The Esplanade: Souleppper Theatre Company; Canadian Stage; Meridian Hall; Young People's Theatre; Théâtre Français de Toronto; and Canadian Opera Company. We met regularly throughout the year and organized together, in Crombie Park, projects such as "Discover Dance", a community choir and Indigenous Day celebration. These partnerships will continue flourishing in 2020 with the common goal of igniting more artistic experiences for all Esplanadians.

Jamii increased the number of projects and events in Crombie Park, especially through programming with the Kisanii Hub; and by creating an outdoor stage for our community. With "The Stories The Wind Carries", we shared our expertise of community engagement through the arts with other communities - Wolfe Island, Wawa, Michipicoten First Nation and Pikangikum First Nation - sharing our multiple stories through the process. It is yet another project that will continue expanding in 2020. Taking Jamii beyond the borders of the Esplanade, as far as 1000kms away, is a big deal and we are extremely proud.

Jamii's commitment to young women in our community is not new. However, in 2019, we took it a step further by asking 20 young women how Jamii had impacted their lives and the community. We acted on their feedback to develop a Women in Leadership initiative named LAINI, which will be launched in 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated women who have made a huge impact to Jamii in 2019, including Mio Miyake Muyoboke and Yusra Yacout (Summer Project Coordinators), Angel Narick and Zarita Adhiambo (Community Outreach and Project Coordinators), Kerryn Graham (Ambassador to Wolfe Island), Sharon McMillan our new co-President (along with Jim Adams), and a special dedication to Georgia Reynolds our past President, who has been on Jamii's Board of Directors since its very first year in 2011.

Jamii continues to bring a lot of personal growth for me. I am grateful to have such a meaningful job in which I can pour all my passion. A job that I feel makes a difference in people's lives and impacts positively on our community. I am looking forward to both celebrating Jamii's 10th Season with all of you, and seeing the organization continue to thrive in our blooming and dynamic community.



2019 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Canada



Cathedral Court Co-Op
Woodsworth Co-Op
Windmill Line Co-Op



canadianstage

Meridian





2019

At Heart, Citizens of The Esplanade Winner of the Public History Award from Heritage Toronto

A docu- film created by more than 150 Esplanadians that continues to spark conversations on the values that drive community, and advocate for public housing and universal design.

Awards:

- 2019 Public History Award – Heritage Toronto Public History Award
- Best Editing & Best Cinematography, short documentary category - Five Continents International Film Festival (Venezuela)
- Award of Merit - IndieFest Film Awards (USA)
- Award of Merit – Canada Short Film Festival
- Exceptional Merit - Docs Without Borders Film Fest (USA)
- Best Documentary Film - Canadian Diversity Film Fest
- Best Music - Feedback Film Festival (Toronto)

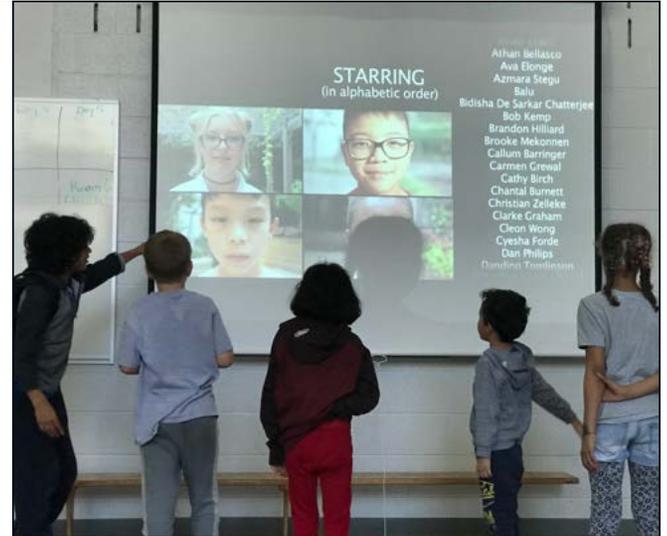
Film festival screenings:

Feedback Film Festival, Alternative Film Festival, Docs Without Borders Film Festival (USA), Five Continents International Film Festival (Venezuela), IndieFEST Film Awards (USA), Canadian Diversity Film Festival. More than 500 viewed the film.

Community screenings:

Caroline Co-Op, Toronto Community Housing, OWN Co-op, Market Lane P.S, Downtown Alternative School. Canadian Opera Company, Toronto Public Library, 222 The Esplanade, Crombie Park. More than 400 viewed the film.

Film producer: Isorine Marc - **Film directors:** Ayelen Liberona & Joseph Johnson Camí





2019

Jamii's new outdoor mobile theatre and social hub **The Kisanii Hub**

"Kisanii" in Swahili means "artistic".

The Kisanii Hub is a cargo bike, customized into a multi-use outdoor arts space: it is at once a mobile presenting venue, a creative lab that engages with locals, and a community hub in the park. It also transforms into a performance stage, a cinema, a puppet stage, an exhibition space and a dance floor - to name but a few. This mobile arts space has the flexibility to host a wide range of artistic propositions throughout our community - engaging diverse audiences of all ages.

The Kisanii Hub is a project that was developed throughout 2019, thanks to the support of Laneway Project, Charlie Freewheels, Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association and St Lawrence Market BIA.

Mark your calendars for the Kisanii Hub's official launch in the Spring 2020.





2019

Jamii's Women in Leadership Initiative **LAINI**

“Laini” is a Swahili word that means to flatten an area with the intent of making it accessible. It is a very similar meaning to “esplanade”, which is a flattened path for people to walk on. LAINI is about giving every woman the confidence and tools to see themselves as leaders; it is about equal chances, and the ability for all to walk the path of leadership. For years, Jamii has been engaging young women in its programming through volunteering opportunities, participating in creative workshops, and working within the organization. However, we have never had an official Women in Leadership programme. Between July and September 2019, Jamii invited 20 young women (Jamii’s past participants) to take part in a one-on-one discussion to assess Jamii’s impact on their lives and on their community. A full report is being prepared by Tanjin Ashraf and will be available in January 2020. Here is a series of testimonials that speak to the work we have already done. All are excerpts from the one-on-one series of 20 interviews.

“I gained confidence with my abilities; it was the first time singing in front of a crowd.”

“Jamii has enabled my connection with community which wasn’t there before.”

“Jamii has potential for creating social capital and link for people to access public information like town hall meetings, which I got to be part of.”

“When you transition to high school, there is no time to do things you like doing so Jamii created a space for that, and to think critically about my own creativity.”

“Jamii brings out the need to preserve community values. This has given me motivation to advocate for community in relation to social housing.”

Based on our initial findings, we set the following goals for LAINI: 1) Nurturing leadership skills; 2) Discovering one’s artistic path/finding one’s voice; 3) Igniting self-drive; 4) Connecting girls to matching mentors. LAINI is being launched in January 2020.



May, 2019

I am me (Girl, I got you). A powerful photo exhibition by 10 young women

In 2018, a group of talented young women created a photography exhibition that was featured as an Open Exhibition in CONTACT, Photography Festival, and displayed in May 2019 in Crombie Park. The exhibit, titled "I am me (Girl, I got you)", invites viewers to push beyond the confines of society's image of women.

Emerging photographers: Alina Khurram, Amni Hantash, Gennavive Marshall, Helena Maragos, Inara Ibrahim, Mysha Khurram, Nadia Ibrahim, Nadifa Daud Mohamed, Pauline Williams, Zoë Campbell

Lead artist: Brianna Roye

Curator: Isorine Marc

Exhibit opening performances: Domanique Grant, Lua Shayenne, Sue Eagle Woman, Heidi Chan, Saira Ansari, and Michael Hammer.





June 19-21, 2019

Indigenous Week Inviting the Esplanade community to celebrate the Indigenous Way.

A week of engagement between indigenous artists and 300 locals in the Esplanade community.

Artists involved : Brian Outinen (Wawa/Michipicoten First Nation), Terri-Lynn Brennan (Wolfe Island), Mahlikah Awe:ri, Kim Weathley, Rhonda Doxtator, and Lindy Kinoshameg.

During the week, Jamii organized workshops in both Market Lane Public School and Downtown Alternative School; a talk at the St Lawrence Library moderated by Kim Wheatley, with performances by Mahlikah Awe:ri; two talks for seniors taking place in both Crombie park and the St Lawrence Community Recreation Centre in partnership with the SLNA; a talk in the park with youth from the St Lawrence daycare; and one afternoon of celebration in partnership with Young People's Theatre featuring IndigenizUS workshop by Lindy Kinoshameg, hoop dance performance by Rhonda Doxtator and a spoken word workshop with Mahlikah Awe:ri. With support from Canadian Heritage.





June 27, 2019

Multicultural Day Celebrating the rich cultural fabric of our community.

More than 60 people got their portraits drawn by visual artists Andrew Patterson, Alicia Herbert and Alison Garwood-Jones, while having a private, yet public live performance by performers Djennie Laguerre, Iman Abdul Razzak, Indrit Kasapi, Jim Adams, and Valérie Descheneaux.

With support from Canadian Heritage and Canada Council for the Arts. In partnership with CORPUS and Théâtre Français de Toronto.



September 19, 2019

St Lawrence Market Community Harvest Festival

Jamii was honored to be part of the Community Harvest Festival and invited artist Alison Garwood-Jones to draw live portraits of people attending the event, thus continuing growing the beautiful collection of faces of our neighbourhood.





July 1, 2019

Canada Day Celebrating our diversity

Canada Day in St James Park was organized by the St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, with the support of community groups and artists, which included Indigenous storytelling with Jim Adams, children storytelling with the Toronto Public Library, calligraphy with Old Town Toronto, facepainting with Linda Epp, and live portrait drawing by Alison Garwood-Jones.



July 15, 2019

Partnership with CORPUS Spectacle en français

Les résidents du Centre d'Accueil Héritage ont adoré un spectacle en français par les artistes Djennie Laguerre et Valérie Descheneaux.

Un régal de voir les spectateurs passer un moment de pur bonheur. Plus de 60 personnes présentes, sous les arbres, à l'ombre, dans notre parc Crombie - une scène de théâtre parfaite!!



August 10, 2019

Partnership with the Toronto Public Library Drag Queen Story Time

Jamii and the Toronto Public Library St. Lawrence Branch joined forces to co-present a fabulous event for children of all ages.

More than 150 people joined us for a very special story time with drag queens Atmos Fierce and Lucinda Miu; face painting by our local artist Linda Epp; live music by Sergio Xocolate; stilt walking by SoCirc; and last but not least, crafts with Parent Resources Early ON Centre!





July, 2019

Esplanade youth to visit their local theatres

17 youth from the Esplanade were part of a special week during which we visited our local theatres. We discovered the wigs and costumes department of Canadian Opera Company; we attended Shakespeare in High Park produced by Canadian Stage; we had a backstage tour and walked on the stage of the Meridian Hall; we were part of a drama workshop with the City Youth Academy at Souleppper Theatre Company; we had a backstage tour of Young People's Theatre; and we had a talk with award-winning artist Nova Bhattacharya organized by the Meridian Hall.



September-December, 2019

Partnership with Canadian Stage Our Baraza

An invitation for Esplanadians to influence programming at their neighbourhood theatre by watching shows and giving feedback to the Artistic Director.

"Book of Life" by Kiki Katese and "Let's Run Away" by Daniel MacIvor have been reviewed through a candid conversation by 10 community members.





July, 2019

Partnership with Meridian Hall **Discover Dance**

A unique opportunity for 100+ audience members to discover Indian Classical Dance with dancer and choreographer Neena Jayarajan.

In partnership with Meridian Hall (former Sony Center).



May 17, 2019

Partnership with Canadian Opera Company **Featuring local artists at the Opera**

Artists Andrew Patterson, Kerryn Graham, Sophia Leopold and Julian Periquet, all local to the Esplanade, were commissioned by the Canadian Opera Company to create a piece inspired by La Bohème. Artworks were presented during a community night at the opera where fellow Esplanadians were invited to attend.



August 14, 21, 28, 2019

Partnership with Souppepper Choir in the park

One-of-a-kind choir experience with multi-instrumentalist artist Waleed Abdulhamid. 60 participants of all ages and artistic backgrounds joined our three sessions in Crombie Park.





August 24, 2019

I am me. I am home.

An engaging exploration of the meaning of home through discussions, a photo exhibition, indigenous drumming and spoken word performances.

Artists : Leonard Bernoit, Gillian Mapp, Swift Current Singers, Sara Luey, Dynasti Williams, Joel Zola, Ilham Suleman, Jennifer Alicia, Karizma, Maysam Abu Khreibeh. Host: Britta B. 100+ audience members.



August & September, 2019

I am me. I am beauty.

A series of 4 self-reflective workshops for young women, led by Empathy Facilitator Georgia Reynolds.

The reflective nature of this workshop invited each of the women to a space of vulnerability in order to embrace inner beauty. The workshop encouraged them to see, share and celebrate who they are. The participants explored both empathy and their natural qualities in a safe and creative space. A total of 10 young women took part in this series of 4 workshops.





October 5, 2019

Toronto Nuit Blanche **I am me. I am heart.**

While the city celebrated the annual Toronto Nuit Blanche event, Jamii invited audiences to participate in a sensory experience inspired by our award-winning documentary “At Heart”.

25 Esplanadians took the audience on a unique and interactive journey through David Crombie Park in our own version of Nuit Blanche. The show offered a site-specific interactive experience to audiences who were then invited for a viewing of “At Heart” at the end of each performance.

Audience: 100+

Co-directed by Ayelen Liberona and Isorine Marc.



September 28, 2019

Partnership with the Toronto Public Library **I am me. I am mighty.**

We celebrated Culture Days by showcasing mighty women. We had live performances, visual arts workshops and story time featuring children books and stories that represent the beauty of cultural diversity in our community.

Artists: Aline Morales, Arlene Paculan, May Massijeh, Connie Wang, Alison Garwood-Jones.

Story readers : Sharon McMillan, Parent Resources EarlyON CFC and St. Lawrence Library.





July 19, 2019

Partnership with the St Lawrence Daycare Youth workshop

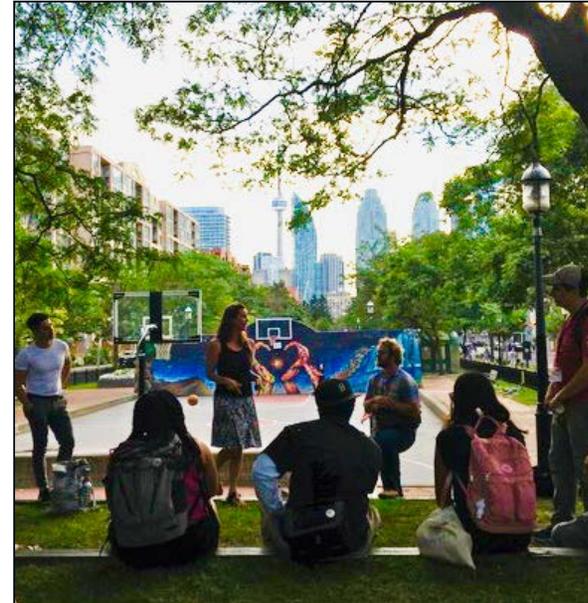
A morning workshop led by artists Jolyane Langlois and Aline Morales. More than 25 youths from the St Lawrence Daycare Co-op joined us to dance, sing, clap and stomp on stage!



October 29, 2019

Partnership with the St Lawrence Market BIA and St Lawrence CRC Pumpkin Palooza

A friendly evening, inviting children and parents to get creative carving halloween pumpkins, while spending quality family time together!
33 participants.



June 2019

Partnership with 8:80 Cities Discussing community engagement with the Emerging City Champions

Twenty community leaders from cities across the United States were selected to participate in the 2019 Emerging City Champions fellowship program. The program provided leadership development and funding for young civic innovators. As part of their engagement week in Toronto, 8:80 Cities invited the Emerging City Champions to discover the Esplanade neighbourhood through a talk with Isorine Marc to learn how the community engages in Crombie Park and how Jamii contributes to better connections amongst residents of all ages.



Oct-Nov, 2019

The Stories The Wind Carries Wawa & Michipicoten First Nation

“The Stories The Wind Carries” invited residents of each community to create “portraits” of fellow community members. The creation of these portraits started with a one-on-one conversation and materialized through photography, visual arts and creative writing.

In November 2019, the Jamii team (composed of Isorine Marc, Darren Marshall, Georgia Reynolds, artist Kara Spencer and artist Dan Bergeron) traveled to Wawa to create the first 22 portraits of the project. The project was enthusiastically received by the community ending in a celebration on November 16th at the Lakeview Hotel with 60 people in attendance, sharing their portraits and experience through the project.





Oct-Nov, 2019

The Stories The Wind Carries **Wolfe Island**

More than 55 people participated in “The Stories The Wind Carries” on Wolfe Island, and together, we created about 20 portraits of fellow members of the community.

The students of Marysville Public School invited Danny Mosiers, James Kirkham, Ken White, Phoenix and Tara Broeders to have their portraits done in the school. The students were very creative and we feel very proud of what they accomplished. A special thank you goes to the teaching body of the school for their support through the creative process with the students.

This project would not be possible without the support of the WIG (Wolfe Island Gallery) and Marysville Public School. Our final get-together at the General Wolfe Hotel was a great success and we are grateful for the beautiful turnout.

Artist team: Andrew Patterson, Kara Spencer, Kerryn Graham, Isorine Marc, Susan Bowers.





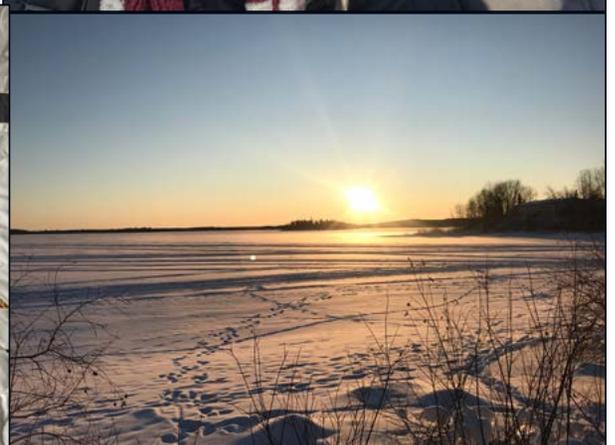
December 2019

The Stories The Wind Carries **Pikangikum First Nation**

Artist Mahlikah Awee:ri and Director Isorine Marc traveled to Pikangikum First Nation to plan the first phase of the project that will take place in February 2020. They met with Principals Marvin McKay-Keenan and Walter Latt of the Eenchokay Birchstick School, as well as Arts Teacher Vanessa Hazel, Project Journey Narcisse Kakegabon, Artist Darwin Peters, Teacher and Artist Lucie Strang, and many others.

We were blessed to be gifted a Star Quilt by Lucie Strang and a painting by Darwin Peters. We felt welcomed in the community and are looking forward to sharing stories from this community in 2020.

A project supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council.





October 2019

Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon Winner: Best Cheering Section

In partnership with Friends of Berczy Park and Princess Children Garden, Jamii spearheaded the organization of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood Cheering Section, winning for the 5th consecutive year the First Prize for Best Cheering Section.

Our annual Family Fun Run brought together 60 family members and friends for a 1km run.

Cheering Section artists : Linda Epp, Andrew Patterson, Aline Morales (with accompanying musicians), Walter MacLean (with accompanying musicians), Kaitlin Torrance, Patrica Estay, Miranda Meijer. With the support of Concert Properties, GWL Realty Advisors, Canada Running Series and Canada Running Series Foundation.



Mentoring the next generation of leaders:

2019 Summer Student Project Coordinators:
Mio Miyake Muyoboke & Yusra Yacout

With the support of the Government of Canada

2019 Community Outreach & Project Coordinator:
Zarita Adhiambo



A special thank you...

...to our staff

Isorine Marc - Executive & Programming Director

Zarita Adhiambo - Community Outreach & Project Coordinator

Angel Narick - Community Outreach

Mio Miyake Muyoboke - Summer Student Project Coordinator

Yusra Yacout- Summer Student Project Coordinator

... to our Board of Directors

Yasmine Abouali (Youth Rep.), Jim Adams, Raji Aujla, Walter Azzalini, Zoie Edwards,

Scarlett Graham (Youth Rep.), Linda Leistner, Stephane Levac, Amanda Maragos,

Sharon McMillan, Georgia Reynolds,

... and to our many volunteers, partners and donors.



Photos by:

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And various contributors.



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