



Dear Artists,

Once again, Covid has put a wrench in our plans. Although we were all hopeful of an outdoor show this summer, it is not to be. The Provincial government has extended the stay-at-home order until June 2 and The City of Toronto has extended cancellation of in-person major events to Labour Day.

Unfortunately, this means that both the Riverdale ArtWalk June AND Riverdale ArtWalk August will not be in person.

By now, we are all experts in the art of the virtual art show and we are grateful to have the history of a full year's experience behind us as we promote the online versions of both shows. We will continue to support artists with strong marketing programs, promotional opportunities and educational seminars to help leverage these shows in the best way possible. With people becoming more comfortable buying art online, we have created a powerful marketing engine that will target art lovers and drive them to your stores. We had many applications and the jury worked hard to identify the 100 participating artists; you should be proud of being part of this group and we hope you are able to leverage this opportunity to sell your work on this platform.

"The provincial government [announced its three-step plan](#) to safely reopen Ontario and gradually lift public health measures based on the province-wide vaccination rate and improvements in key public health indicators." Said the City of Toronto. "Outdoor recreational amenities will reopen, with restrictions in place, effective May 22. The government expects to enter Step One of the Roadmap the week of June 14." Given this information, we are hopeful that the Tent Tour can still happen, albeit with some modifications to ensure artists plus visitors do not exceed the guidelines. For more details on the Province's Three Step Roadmap, [click here](#).

It should be noted that Artists who are exhibiting outdoors at their home or other venue shall be considered the organizer of the event and Artists' Network and its board and staff take no responsibility or liability whatsoever. Artists shall familiarize themselves with requirements and adhere to current recommendations for informal gatherings, including but not limited ensuring a maximum gathering size based on the current requirements, wearing a mask at all times, keeping distance from attendees, using



a contactless pay system, obtaining contact information of attendees for contact tracing, providing hand sanitizer and ensuring surfaces are sanitized and ensuring a clear path of travel, ideally by opening the back of the tent.

We are moving forward in the assumption that ArtWalk in the Square will proceed. We are in the process of working with the Shops at Don Mills to ensure all safety protocols are met. As we know, this is an ever-changing environment so we will keep you up to date of any changes.

As a community, you have all been incredibly strong and we see that light at the end of this tunnel. We will remain optimistic and look forward to seeing everyone in real life in the near future! Be well, keep creating, wash your hands, practice social distancing and hopefully we will all be out in the sunshine in September for ArtWalk in the Square!

Cheers,

Your Board

Kate Taylor (Chair), Jamie Maclean (Treasurer), Kat Palmer (Secretary), Carolyn Laidley Arn (Vice-Chair ), Jennifer Rideout, Noelle Hjelte, Diane Montreuil, Marjolyn Van der Hart, Paul Brandejs.