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   /JamiiEsplanade

2021 Season Review



Photo: Jae Yang Photography

A message from Isorine



Isorine Marc
Executive & Artistic Director

Reflecting on the past year while starting a new one.

We centre that reflection on celebrating even though there has been so much trauma, for so many of us.

Celebrating the beautiful people with whom we shaped moments to be remembered.

Celebrating these moments that shook us to our core, caressed our hearts, filled up our cups with kindness, sparkled dust of magic on our little ones, inspired us to make a change, and invited everyone to listen to our stories.

Celebrating these stories as if they were the most precious things we had in our hands, as if they were our homes, and as if they were the means to enable more love all around.

So let's do it. **Let's celebrate.**

Let's take that walk through the emotional ride that was 2021, as we wrote our journey from one uncertainty to the next, punctuated with hope, bursts of joy, warmth of love... but also with fear, anxiety, frustration and anger. Let's go through these pages, taking in the images, words, and all the emotions that transpired, welcoming in new memories we now share together.

Let's fill ourselves with the pride of such an amazing year that was synonymous with resilience, innovation, audacity, courage, love, and empowerment.

Resilience as we found new ways to adapt our programming to whatever COVID-19 restrictions were

announced and to continue offering much needed safe artistic experiences to our community - as we did with **"Seven," "LuminUs" and "Duets."**

Innovation as we continued to invent new ways of doing things, working with artists, engaging youth, connecting with our neighbours, transforming our public space with arts - as we did with **"Wayo" and "La Bulle."**

Audacity as we were willing to take bold artistic risks throughout the year - as we did with **"The Wedding."**

Courage as we found strength in the face of pain and grief - as we did when we spoke up at our celebration of **"National Indigenous Peoples' Day" and "Celebrating Community."**

Love as we expressed how much we cared about those at a physical distance from us - as we did with **"Caring Connections" and "Illuminated Perspectives."**

Empowerment as we continued to find ways to engage our young women in artistic journeys; instilling in them the taste of being tomorrow's creative leaders - as we did throughout the year with **"Laini" and "WisdoM ripples."**

Our 2021 theme was **"Looks Like Us"** and was an invitation to explore one of the foundational values of the Esplanade neighbourhood: the concept of **"mix."** We wanted to ask if, while we celebrate each other's cultural heritage, we also celebrate intercultural mixing, and if so, how? Through a wide range of artistic experiences, we explored if we could bring our cultures together while retaining our cultural traditions, sense of identity and



uniqueness. We hoped to continue engaging artists and audiences with questions around representation and belonging, and to ignite conversations. Did we succeed? Only you can say.

Throughout this season review, we are asking you some questions. Please click on the questions: the hyperlink will automatically set you up to share with us your thoughts, opinions, and perspectives. We want to hear from you. We want to read your voice. We want to hear how our season had an impact on you or at least, invite you to reflect. This will help us shape what's to come for 2022.

The theme for our 2022 season is **“Water Is Memory”** and our most recent project, the photo exhibition **“WlsdoM ripples,”** was the first of a series to explore this theme and what it means to us, to you, to all of us. What do you hear when you read “Water Is Memory?”

2022 is coming to existence thanks to all Jamii’s philanthropists who shaped 2021 by giving to the organization their talent, time, money, ideas, expertise, space, passion, commitment, love and, more importantly, who hold us up month, after month, after month and never ever suggested we could fail or disappoint. You believed in us, in Jamii, in me and in our team. You have made 2021 more than a success and you have built a strong foundation for the future, and for this, we are, and I am, grateful beyond words.

Jamii stands on all of us coming together to carry it up. We have attempted to capture all of you in this document, and as you can see, philanthropists were many. I would like to shine a spotlight on a few - starting with Jamii’s Board of

Directors whose support is essential. Along with the Board I’d like to thank our key partner and local theatre, Canadian Stage: together, we are committed to enhance artistic experiences for all Esplanadians. There are also a few powerhouse women who gave Jamii wings to fly higher than ever. I’d like to name a few, starting with Jasmin Linton who stepped into the role of Program Manager throughout 2021 and has been such a gift to Jamii, greatly contributing to our capacity to produce so many projects in such an eloquent way. DeeAnn Sagar (2021 Philanthropy Manager) connected us to her daughter, Amye Sagar, who helped us handle the technical aspects of so many of our events. Along with Amye, sisters Ana and Alejandra Higuera were key in capturing some of the most powerful projects of the year, such as **“The Wedding”** and **“Duets.”** Jamii is only the sum of the wonderful people who compose it.

There are undeniable positive health effects in being part of something bigger than self, as we share a communal experience, and create memories together – especially in person. By offering these artistic experiences to you, we hope to contribute to enhanced well-being for all.

As in 2021, we will take it one step at the time in 2022, one day at a time, one smile at a time. We will keep our heads up, walk the path and continue to contribute to a healthier, more united and loving community, because that’s what we do best. We hope you will continue the journey with us.

Isorine Marc

Executive & Artistic Director



2021 in Numbers

In 2021, through the 2nd year of a global pandemic, Jamii...

Produced

3 photo exhibits

to the delight of

4,000+ viewers

Directed

13 short films

which accumulated

16,000+ views

Organized

13 online events

with approximately

18,000+ views

Produced

39 live events

to the delight of

2,700+
audience members

Organized

95 workshops

which welcomed

270 participants

Hired

31 Esplanadians

Worked with

120+ artist

2021 in a Glance



As a general rule, all of Jamii's activities (events, workshops, film projects, etc.) are FREE and take place in our community: The Esplanade neighbourhood, in and around David Crombie Park, in downtown Toronto.

Laini

Youth Leadership through the Arts

160+ workshop hours
50+ participants

Lead artists: Jonelle Sills, Raha Javanfar, Ayelen Liberona, Arlene Paculan, Paulina O'Kieffe-Anthony, Elle Alconcel, Gillian Mapp, Alejandra Higuera

2021 is the year **LAINI** took another dimension with more than 50 girls engaged through different artistic experiences to grow their leadership skills. They were lucky to work with inspiring arts leaders who gave them the opportunity to a wide range of artistic experiences, with - at the centre of the work, multiple opportunities to exercise their leadership. Seeds are planted, and we are now watering it for the years to come.



Photos: Isorine Marc

I am in awe at how the mentors fostered such rich environments for the youths. All the mentors had their own unique approaches, but there was a common thread of ensuring inclusivity and collaboration. I loved being a part of this ethnographic project; rather than being an observer I felt immersed in each and every program. (...) The mentors and mentees created lifelong memories, all while keeping the pandemic at bay.

- Tanjin Ashraf, Laini Research and Evaluation Lead

The Wedding

Film Project

May to Oct

10,000+
online views!



Concept and direction: Isorine Marc

Videography and editing: Alejandra Higuera, Ana Maria Higuera

Creative and production team: More than 50 people were involved in this project. Click [here](#) to check full credits.



Photos: Jae Yang Photography, Omer Yukseker



THE WEDDING is a celebration of multiculturalism, an invitation for self-reflection on how wedding ceremonies can trigger different emotions, and an exploration of the emotional roller coaster of wedded life. Designed as a three-part series of videos (filmed in one-20min-take), this project invited everyone to reflect on their own relationship to the concept, values and ceremonies of weddings.

What a wild project! I absolutely love how it incorporates the full breadth of the Esplanade in every sense - the cast walk the length of the street and engage with all the park areas, all the cultural diversity is so intentionally represented...incredible. It really feels like a truly global community condensed into a few blocks. The fact you did it (at least) 3 times is nuts. Love it.

- Andrew, Audience Member

Wayo Children's Festival

Live Event

Aug 19th to 21st

Performers: CORPUS, Cécé Haba, George Crotty, Sarah L Davidson-Gurney, Fathiya Hassen, Eman Hillawi, Veronica Lee, Alexandra LeGendre, Tahnee Reyes, Carmen Romero, Jonelle Sills, Lua Shayenne, Xocô Music (Sérgio Xocolate and Suzanne Roberts Smith)

WAYO was a three-day children's festival that gave attendees an intimate multi-arts experience through a timed journey of performances through The Berkeley Castle and Canadian Stage's Berkeley Theatre. The 2nd annual festival welcomed 300 audience members through this parkour festival experience.

Wayo was the ultimate compensation for all the live art children and young audiences have been deprived off lately. Empty lawns, parking lots, staircases, building corners were all designed and utilized as COVID-safe outdoor stages. For the second year, Jamii has successfully offered the arts in a palatable and personal way to young audiences at Wayo Festival.

- Sharon Zarita, Arts Administrator and Writer

300+
audience members!



Photos: Jae Yang Photography

National Live Event Indigenous People's Day

June 21st

150+
audience members!



Photos: Delphy Photography

Guests: Jim Adams, Jennifer Alicia, Saira Ansari, Leonard Benoit, Sue Croweagle, Aria Evans, Kim Wheatley



In 2021 the devastating truths started to emerge about the Government of Canada's history with the Indigenous Peoples of this land. How did this affect you and your perception of the past we all carry into tomorrow?



To celebrate **NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY**, Jamii initiated a story-sharing circle in David Crombie Park, with the intent to honor the Indigenous peoples on whose land we currently reside. Along with host Jim Adams, Jamii Co-President and a member of the Tkaronto Indigenous arts community, we invited community members to listen and reflect as guest Indigenous artists shared stories with us.

It was such a lovely celebration and felt good to be in community again... Thank you to the other artists who were part of the circle that day.

It filled me up!
- Jennifer Alicia, Artist

STAFF

Behind every event, exhibit, workshops, there is a team of skilled, dedicated, talented visionaries and producers, who believe that Jamii's impact on the Esplanade community and beyond is worth all the energy, time and efforts we are pouring into our organization - all year-long. Jamii's 2021 season has been beyond remarkable. Remarkable work can only be done by remarkable people.

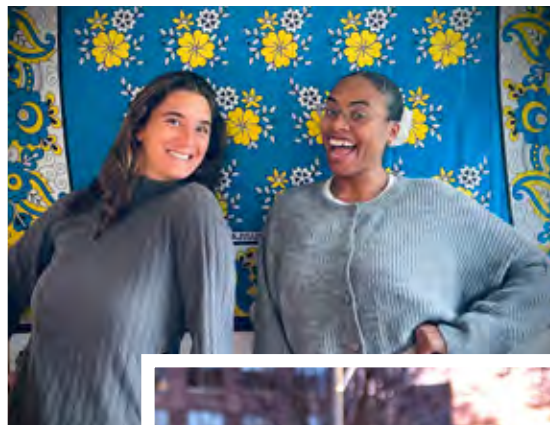
Isorine Marc Executive and Artistic Director

Jasmin Linton Program Manager

DeeAnn Sagar Philanthropy Manager

Mira Ghabiel, Cynthia Russo, Jonelle Sills

Community Arts Coordinators through Government of Canada's Canada Summer Job program



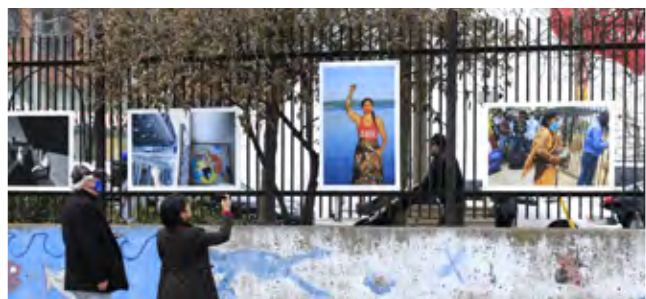
*Remarkable work
can only be done by
remarkable people.*

Looks Like Us

Photo Exhibit

Apr 3rd to Aug 30th

3,000+ exhibit viewers!
2,000+ online views!



Photos: Abel Tesfaldet, Isorine Marc



Curated by Our Laini Youth: Elizabeth Afeworki, Raecheal Goddard, Alina Khurram, Mysha Khurram, Aela Kuria, Karen Lam, Sophia Leopold-Muresan, Abigail MacDonald, Helena Maragos, Gennavive Marshall, Huda Mourad, Ruthmarie Williams, Afnan Yakot

Artistic Team: Marta Iwanek, Gillian Mapp, Isorine Marc

Unveiling Live Performance: Raha Javanfar

Featured Photographers: Serra Akcan, Iman Al-Dabbagh, Alyson Aliano, Erica Canepa, Analía Cid, Rehab Eldalil, Mariceu Erthal García, Asmaa Gamal, Andrea Hernández Briceño, DeLovie Kwagala, Samyukta Lakshmi, Nyimas Laula, Anja Matthes, Liliana Merizalde, Tahila Mintz, Oksana Parafeniuk, Morena Pérez Joachin, Ranita Roy, Clara Vannucci, Danielle Villasana, Gaia Squarci, Irina Unruh

LOOKS LIKE US was an exhibit featuring 27 photographers, members of The Journal collective, and was curated by 13 young women from The Esplanade community.

By providing a window onto the world through these photographs, we are creating a platform to express our different experiences of the pandemic, to relate to one another, to talk about emotions, and to understand that even though COVID-19 has affected the world at large, the impact it had on individuals was very different.

- Excerpt from the curators' artistic statement

Curating this exhibit opened my eyes because I am only 11yrs old and I am creating something with other great women. I have always wanted to be a basketball player but people said I can't because I am a girl, but now I realize that even if I am a girl, I can still do anything I want.

- Huda, Youth Curator

Mix

Online Event
March 3rd to 6th

50+ spectators!
6,000+ online views!

Co-Presented with



Artistic direction: Anika Johnson, Isorine Marc

Videographers: Alejandra Higuera, Ana Maria Higuera, Isorine Marc

Performers and co-creators: TrudyLee Gayle, Leen Hamo, Anika Johnson, Mila Liberona-Camí, Indrit Kasapi, Ayelen Liberona, Arlene Paculan, Takako Segawa, Jeremiah Sparks, Bana Stegu, Kaitlin Torrance

Project and Digital Management: Janin Goldman, Jasmin Linton

Sound tech: Amye Sagar

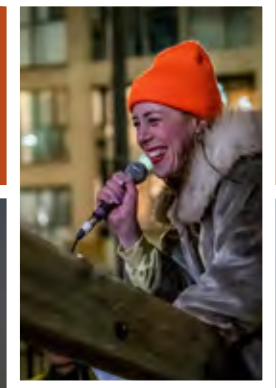
Powered by Stream Stage Productions

MIX was a series of four live-streamed events where online audiences were invited to discover each performance through three simultaneous perspectives. This project started with one simple question: "How do we mix?"

In the 1970's, The Esplanade community was developed around the concept of 'mix'. Today, it is one of the most diverse communities in the world. How do you mix with your neighbours?

We mix by sharing stories. Sharing experiences. Sharing commonalities. Sharing differences. By listening to each other. Respecting each other and coming together.

- Jasmin Linton, Jamii Program Manager



Photos: Jae Yang Photography

La Bulle

Live Event

Aug 31st to Sept 5th

700+
audience members!

Co-Presented with



Photos: Robert Deleskie

Created by: David Danzon, Carolin Lindner

Performed by: David Danzon

Produced by: CORPUS

Presented at the Berkeley Castle

A series of 6 performances of the Canadian premiere of **LA BULLE**, the new CORPUS creation, in the historic Berkeley Castle courtyard. La Bulle featured a one-of-a-kind bubble tent and its sole inhabitant: Pierrot, the iconic dreamer. Confined together, they live in transparent symbiosis. In this theatrical setting, there is nowhere to hide - an absurd situation, fully exploited with humour by a lucid and lunar Pierrot.

This performance was poetry in action; the silent performance of David Danzon seemed louder than any spoken words. Thank you Jamii, CORPUS, Théâtre français de Toronto, Berkeley Castle, and all those who made this performance possible in our unique neighborhood.
- Mirela, Audience Member



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Seven

Online Event
Feb 1st to 7th

6,000
online views!

Performing artists and creators: Michael Caldwell, Jaz Fairy J, Jane-Alison McKinney, Yvonne Ng, Nicola Pantin, Lua Shayenne, Irma Villafuerte
Technical Assistants (Laini participants): Mira Ghabiel, Afnan Yakot
Videography: Isorine Marc

SEVEN was a series of live-streamed dance solos that featured professional artists who were tasked to explore and share through movements and words how they had been shaken to the core through the past year of pandemic life.

Seven artists. Seven-minute solos. Live-streamed at 7pm every day for 7 days in a row. To centre ourselves through the unknown of last February, we needed to feel structured and having something to expect from one day to the next.

My love and commitment are essential... No matter how low things get, how much solitude invades the body and space, I hang on to love; I give passionately; I am forever committed to what makes me love passionately.

- Irma Villafuerte, Artist



BOARD

Jamii is blessed to be supported, advised and guided by an amazing team of wonderful individuals who are deeply committed to Jamii's mission and long-term sustainability. To each member of our Board of Directors, our heart is full of gratitude for your leadership. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Sharon McMillan, Jim Adams Co-Presidents
Linda Leistner Treasurer
Amanda Maragos Secretary
Walter Azzalini, Zoie Edwards, Nadifa Mohamed, Georgia Reynolds, Aziza Virani Directors



Photos: Jae Yang Photography

*Our heart is full of
gratitude for your
leadership.*

LuminUs

Live and Online Event

Feb 25th to 27th

200+ Spectators!
1,300+ online views!

Created by: Clay and Paper Theatre

Performed by: Amelia Blaine, Devlin Flynn, Jesse Wabegijig, Chris Wilson, Maria Wodzinska

Cyclist (Laini participant): Raecheal Goddard

LUMINUS transformed our streets into a magical floating imaginarium with whimsical large-scale puppets seamlessly floating through our neighbourhood. Performed by the creative bunch at Clay and Paper Theatre, LuminUS was inspired by this dark time, both seasonally and historically, as we moved through the winter of a global pandemic and social change.

How lucky we are to have such talent in our beloved Esplanade neighbourhood.

- Florence, Audience Member



Photos: Omer Yukseker, Jasmin Linton

Duets

Film Project

May 14th to 26th

180+ audience members!
6,000+ online views!



Photos: Omer Yukseker, Isorine Marc



Concept: Isorine Marc

Videographers: Ana Higuera, Alejandra Higuera

Creators and Performers: Waleed Abdulhamid, Meryem Alaoui, Mahlikah Awe:ri, Edz Gyamfi, Michael Louis Johnson, Teiya Kasahara 笠原 貞野, Aline Morales, Atri Nundy, Carmen Romero, Heidi Strauss

DUETS was a series of 10 short videos that explored Jamii's 2021 season theme "How do we mix?". We invited 10 artists, musicians and dancers, strangers to each other, to pair up and explore our season theme together through an on-site creative process, which we filmed then and there. The result was a captivating series of duets, which we shared online with thousands, diving into what it means to "mix" with one another.

They aren't trying to "mix" into something new, they are "mixing" to complement each other. Drums are at the core of so many cultures at it is apparent their cultures share this.

- Duets Audience Member

Oct to Dec Illuminated Perspectives

Photo Exhibit

Photographers: Mandi Chan Peters, Maddy King, Morningstar Quill, Clayton Turtle
Curation Process Facilitated by: Elle Alconcel, assisted by Isorine Marc
Curated by Our Laini Youth: Lydia Embaye, Aela Kuria, Sophia Leopold-Muresan, Huda Mourad, Tenzin Paldon, Anhar Salem, Asmaa Salem, Faith Ssempiira, Francesca Ssempiira, RuthMarie Williams, Zhenmei Wong-Ward
Project Management: Jasmin Linton, Isorine Marc
Project Coordination (Pikangikum First Nation): Vanessa Hazel
Project Assistant: Afnan Yakot
Graphic Design: Iris Unlu

1,000+ viewers!

ILLUMINATED PERSPECTIVES was a photo exhibit featuring the work of 4 photographers from Pikangikum First Nation, curated by 11 young women from The Esplanade community. This exhibit was featured in the courtyard of the Toronto Public Library – St. Lawrence Branch.

Guess how much a loaf of bread costs in Pikangikum First Nation and then use google to find the answer!

This exhibit portrays Pikangikum First Nation and its spectacular beauty. The photos capture the essence of northern wildlife and the people who live there. It tells a story and opens our eyes to a place in our country that many of us didn't know existed. These photos are much more powerful than just a series of images. They are a statement of culture, heritage, pride, and community

- Curators' Artistic Statement Excerpt



Live Event

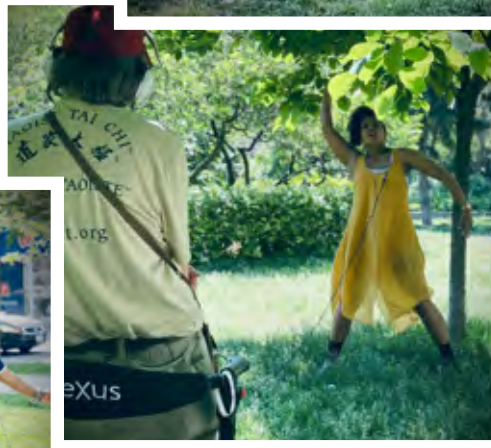
Écoute Pour Voir

June 4th to 6th

150+
audience members!



Photos: Jasmin Linton, Isorine Marc



Created by: Dance Carpe Diem

Artistic Direction: Emmanuel Jouthe

Performers and Creators: Élise Bergeron, Andrea Nann, Swahdi Ranganee, Syreeta Spector, Kaitlin Torrance, Irma Villafuerte



ÉCOUTE POUR VOIR is concept by the Montreal-based company Danse Carpe Diem. It is a series of various solos dispersed about the space that are danced simultaneously for one audience member at the time. Connected via headphones, united for a moment and bound together in movement, dancers and audience members engage in singular encounters and each solo becomes a close dialogue.



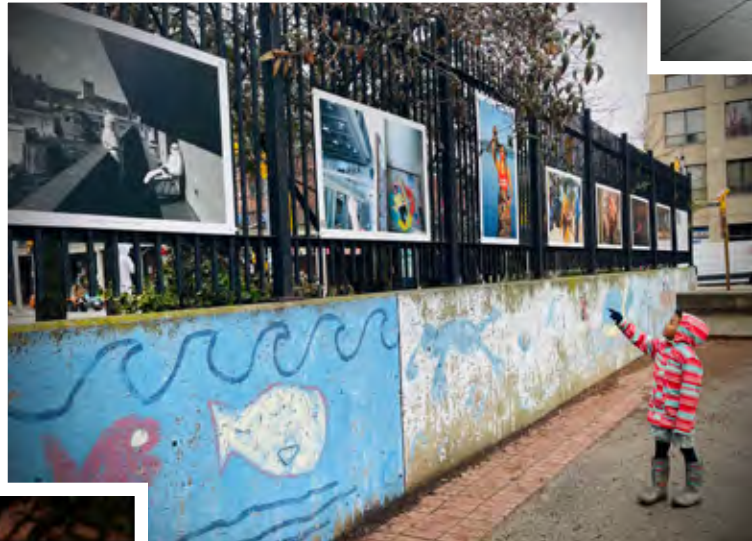
Have you ever had a personal experience where an artist shared something with you, one-on-one, and transported you away from the busyness of the city?

DONORS

Afsheen, Alex, Alison, Amye, Arlene, Atieno, Bob, Carol, Danica, DeeAnn, Dulce, Flora, Gianna, Ilse, Indrit, Jenn, Jennifer H., Jennifer R., Jessica, John, Jonathan, Karen C., Karen K., Kristine M., Lester, Linda, Louise, Maria V., Marie C., Mirela, Nadifa, Nicola, Nicole, Pascale, Raha, Rhonda, Richard, Robert, Sharon, Steve, Susan, Tanjin, Wendy: thank you for your 2021 donation. **You made this stunning season review possible.** Your donations totaled almost \$18,000! This had a HUGE impact on Jamii's ability to continue offering a wide range of FREE programming to our community. T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U so, so much!



Photos: Jae Yang Photography, Isorine Marc



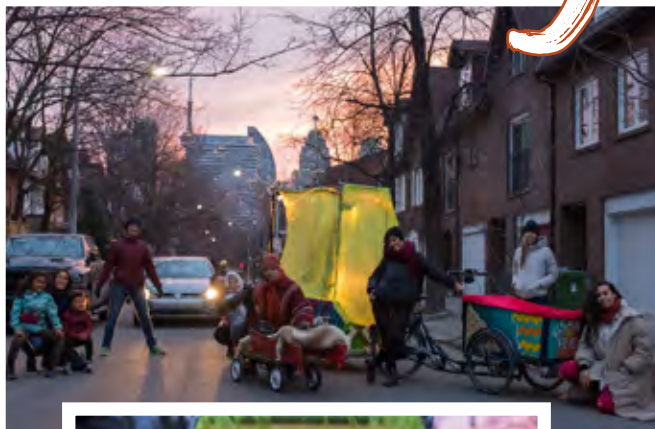
*This season review is
the butterfly effect
of your donation.*

Giizhig

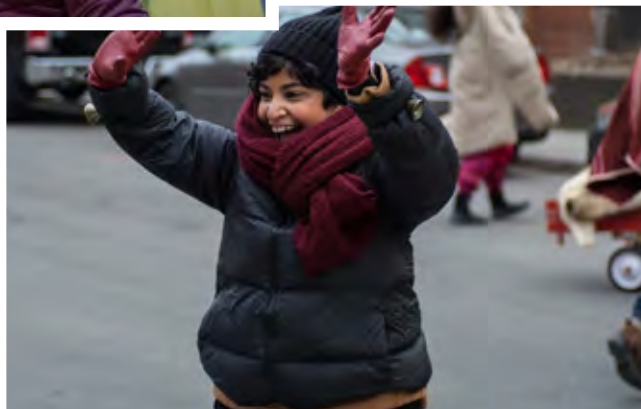
Live Event

March 18th to 20th

180+ in-person
audience members!
700+ online views!



Photos: Ali Javeed



Artistic Direction: Michael Caldwell

Performers: Jim 'Many Hats' Adams, Michael Caldwell, Aria Evans, Jane-Alison McKinney, Irma Villafuerte

Poetry by: Mahlikah Awe:ri



Plants are known for their soothing, healing, and regenerative powers. Which plants bring you comfort?



GIIZHIG, which is the Anishinaabemowin - Ojibway word for "cedar", was a series of traveling performances that visited different pockets of The Esplanade community. It provided a journey through the streets and side roads, allowing for brief (and socially distanced) encounters for connection and reflection with local residents. Giizhig was a poetic conversation between our urban landscape and the natural environment that surrounds us.

With every sip my spirit drifts
To ancestral woodlands
Where her tender protective bows
Inwardly sway me back
To Lodge Prayer Ceremony
Releasing the toxicity
Which threatens reciprocity
Grandmother Cedar's Roots
- Excerpts from Onen'takwenhténhtshera (Cedar) by Mahlikah Awe:ri
Enml'ga't Saqama'sgw ©2021

Celebrating **3 events**

Indigenous Culture & Knowledge

March 22nd to 29th



How do you celebrate Indigenous culture and knowledge?

Talk with Brian Outinen

March 22nd and 23rd

Online Talk

2 online workshops!
30 participants!

We were honored to welcome Brian Outinen, Anishinaabe language specialist and professor at Algoma University, for two online talks on the subjects of language, sacred symbol writing and petroglyphs.

Photo: Isorine Marc



Photo: Afnan Yakot



Hoop Dancing Workshops

March 27th

In-Person

8 workshops!
20 participants!



Jamii invited families to participate in a series of 25min hoop dancing workshops in our local park under the guidance of Nimkii Osawamick.

Red Rhythm & Blues

March 29

Live & Online

100+ spectators!
900+ online viewers!



RED RHYTHM & BLUES is a wonderful musical duo by Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone and Valentina Morelli. Together they crafted soothing medicine music to heal the soul and free the spirit which was rooted in Indigenous storytelling and we were honored to present their music to all Esplanadians.

Celebrating Community

July 1st

Live Event

Performers: FreePlay Duo (Suba Sankaran and Dylan Bell), TenTen (Heidi Chan and Aki Takahashi), Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone, Kazdoura Music (Leen Hamo and John Abou Chacra), Xocô Music (Sérgio Xocolate and Suzanne Roberts Smith)

500+ audience members!
600+ online viewers!

What are the actions you choose to take for reconciliation?

Jamii joined forces with the St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) to present **CELEBRATING COMMUNITY**, a musical ride through our three local parks: David Crombie Park, Berczy Park and St James Park.

Today is Canada Day, but really, this year, more than anything, we need to take stock and reflect on the absolute horror of the mass grave sites of Indigenous children that have been found in residential schools across this country, and children in mass graves that we know that we will continue to find for months and years to come as these sites are searched. Today needs to be a different kind of Canada Day. It needs to be a day where we focus on reconciliation, and our role in reconciliation, as Indigenous folks and as settlers.

- Suze Morrison, MPP Toronto Centre



Photos: Delphy Photography



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Becoming Garden

Live Event

July 15th to 17th

100+ audience members!

Photos: Isorine Marc



Weaver: Ayelen Liberona

Co-produced with Becoming Praxis

Laini Youth: Ruby Fowler, Daniella Gakumba, Mila Liberona-Cami, Aela Kuria, Huda Mourad, Trinity Ursula Nzau, Emma Pio, Francesca Ssempiira, Ruthmarie Williams, Zhenmei Wong-Ward

Guest Artists and Performers: Joshua "Josh" Recolleta, LAL (Rosina Kazi & Nicholas 'Nic' Murray)



BECOMING GARDEN was an intimate sonic sensory experience that honoured Indigenous ways of knowing in an outdoor garden filled with songs, stories and joyful art-making. Guided by Indigenous teachings that elevated senses, excited imagination and invited people to re-story their relations.

It was amazingly immersive... shockingly so... I felt at home, loved, understood, and safe. The girls, the trees, the earth, the garden, the voices through the headsets... It felt as if I was having my own private yet shared experience. How is that even possible? Utterly magical. I tried to explain it to friends and could not. You healed a part of me.

- Susan, Audience Member

CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage, The Esplanade's internationally renowned theatre, and Jamii have joined forces to **reinforce our capacity to bring memorable arts experiences** in our community. This collaboration has been transformative for Jamii: we simply wouldn't have been able to produce this amazing range of events without Canadian Stage.

A special thank you to their incredible team: Brendan Healy, Monica Esteves, Elissa Horscroft, Tristan Goethel, Aidan Ware, Leslie Hernandez, to name but a few.



When we stand together,
we stand stronger.

Caring Connections

Live Event & Workshops

Sept 24th to 26th

60 workshop participants!
70 audience members!

Workshop Lead: Saira Ansari

Live Music: Lauren Barnett, Beny Esguerra, Jerusa Leao, Veronica Lee, Tangi Lion, Katy Moonbean

Dance Performance: "Two x 30" by Michael Caldwell, performed by Pulga Muchochoma, Roberto Soria, Heidi Strauss

Co-produced with Ontario Culture Days

Visual artist Saira Ansari guided participants of **CARING CONNECTIONS** in the creation of a collective fabric collage "From our heart to yours", as part of a continued community sharing process between residents of the Esplanade, and those in Pikangikum First Nation in Northern Ontario. Our intention is to hand deliver this artwork to the Pikangikum community in the future. The series of workshops were accompanied by live music and the dance performance "Two x 30"

Photos: Jae Yang

Thank you for the beauty of this right outside my front door. It was delightful. Thanks to everyone who gave their time and creativity, and thanks for making me smile.

- Danielle, Audience Member

Allegra Charleston

Live Event & Workshops

March 30th to Apr 1st

800+ online views!

Artists: Susie Burpee, Diana Tso

17 students engaged through workshops and performances



If you could be anyone else... who would that be? What would you love most about your new self?



ALLEGRA CHARLESTON (Susie Burpee) took a stroll through David Crombie Park, surprising a classroom of students from Market Lane Public School with a series of impromptu performances. These performances engaged young audiences who were learning about character development in-class. Performances were followed-up with a series of online workshops to help the students further their experience.



Photos: Isorine Marc

Thank you so much inviting me to be part of this fun creative adventure with the students at Market Lane Public School. Thank you for all the wonderful and awesome things Jamii creates for the community!

- Diana Tso, Artist

In-person workshops

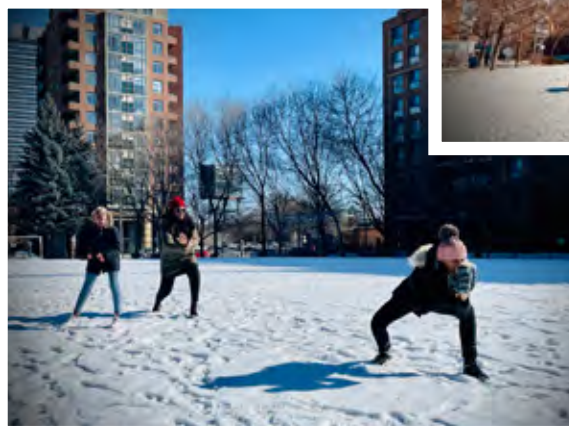
Moving in The Park

Jan 19th to Feb 5th

50 sessions!
70 participants!



Artists/Facilitators: Ankita Kumar-Ratta, Yvonne Ng, Jane-Alison McKinney, Nicola Pantin, Irma Villafuerte



MOVING IN THE PARK was a series of 25-minute movement-based outdoor workshops. Our intention was to encourage residents of all ages to keep physically and creatively active during the Winter lockdown of 2021. For each session participants worked/played with professional dancers who guided them through a series of creative movements.



What were some creative ways you chose to keep yourself physically and mentally active during the lockdown?

J'ai aimé être dehors (ce qui est rare pour moi en hiver) et de faire une activité en famille. I loved being outside (which I rarely do in the winter) and participating in activity with my family.

- Arianne, Workshop Participant

Photos: Isorine Marc, Jasmin Linton

In-person workshops

A Super(s)hero who Looks Like Us

Dec 3rd to 5th

3 sessions!
15 participants!

Artist/Facilitator: Chris Henderson



What would your super(s)hero look like?



A **SUPER(S)HERO WHO LOOKS LIKE US** was a beautiful way to close a year of programming. While we explored our season theme titled “LOOKS LIKE US” through different lenses and perspectives, closing off with a visionary exercise of dreaming what our super(s)hero would look like, was the cherry on top of the cake.



Photos: Isorine Marc

WisdoM ripples

Photo Exhibit

Nov to Dec

1,000+
viewers!



Photos: Delphy Photography

Curated by Our Laini Youth: Lydia Embaye, Mira Ghabel, Aela Kuria, Tenzin Paldon, Anhar Salem, Morgan Tortolo, Nada Yakot, Hanna Yusuf, Leena Yusuf

Curation process facilitated by: Gillian Mapp, Isorine Marc

Video documentation by: Noshin Hussain, mentored by Alejandra Higuera

Graphic Design: Iris Unlu



WisdoM ripples features the work of the three Toronto-based powerful photographers Roya DelSol, Brianna Roye, Zahrah Siddiqui, and is curated by 9 young women of The Esplanade community. Together, and as a way to leap into next year, photographers and curators explored Jamii's 2022 season theme: WATER IS MEMORY.



"Water is Memory" is at the centre of our 2022 season theme – we are planning to explore this concept throughout the year. What do you think of when you hear "Water is Memory"?

A souvenir from a trip taken long ago. The scents from childhood. The familiar sound of laughter from your loved ones. Memories from the past rushing in and out like waves, crashing and flowing like a storm of culture.

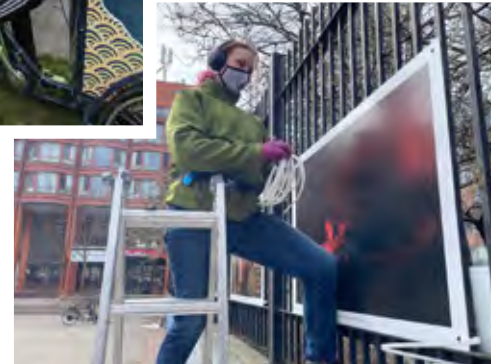
- Excerpt from Artistic Statement

FREELANCERS

There are some very special people who are Jamii's family and bring the quality of our work to next level. **This talented individuals are shaping what Jamii does**, what it looks like, how it impact the community and transform our public space. We have grown our Jamii family this year, and we are over the moon to be collaborating with such creative people.

Raecheal Goddard Kisanii Hub Rider and Tech Assistant
Ana Higuera and Alejandra Higuera Videography
Amye Sagar Stage Manager
Iris Unlu Graphic Designer
Afnan Yakot Workshop and Tech Assistant

As well as Ariane Burtin, Laura Dittmann, Fathia Hassen, Marta Iwanec, Matthew Maaskant, Dawar Naeem, Annie Sakkab; our team of events photographers: Ali Javeed, Gillian Mapp, Murphy Owusu, Abel Tesfaldet, Jae Yang; and, last but not least, our Staging Change team: Afsheen Chowdhury, Ella Cooper, Zoie Edwards, Jordyn Gibson, Jasmin Linton, Mio Muyobokey, Andrew Patterson, Atieno Odenyo, Paulina O'Kieffe-Anthony, Georgia Reynolds, DeeAnn Sagar, Aziza Virani, Yusra Yacout.



Photos: Isorine Marc, Omer Yukseker, Mira Ghabel, Jae Yang Photography

*We gave you
a canvas and you
made a piece of art.*

VOLUNTEERS & POLITICIANS

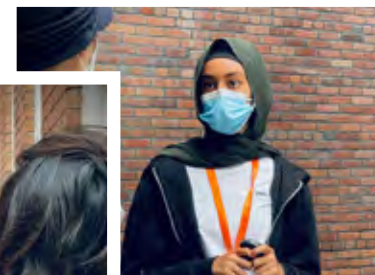
Volunteering is not about the time you spent at an event “helping out”. It is about the energy you bring, the voice you contribute, the personal touch you add to the magic, the way you interact with audiences and participants, and the generosity you share all around. As much as everyone involved with Jamii, you are shaping what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. **You are family.**

Alysha Bukhari, Lydia Embaye, Usama Mohamednur, Maram Omer, Anhar Salem, Ammar Salem, Asma’a Salem, Maha Salem, Tereka Smith, Akram Yacout, Yusra Yacout, Afnan Yakot, Rayan Salim.

A special thank you to photographer Omer Yukseker who captured beautiful photos of LuminUs, Duets, and The Wedding.

Navigating programming during the pandemic was not a simple, straightforward process. We are grateful for the support of our **local politicians and their teams** for their guidance, their time and energy.

Councillor Kristyn Wong Tam
MPP Suze Morrison
MP Marci Ien
MPP Chris Glover
And their supportive teams
(their teams are the ones that helped with newsletter)



We hope we were
able to give you as much
as you offered to us.

Here is to another
10 years!



www.jamii.ca | info@jamii.ca

   [/JamiiEsplanade](https://www.youtube.com/JamiiEsplanade)

Photo: Jae Yang Photography