

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Harbourfront Centre cancels all outdoor summer festivals**

*Will look to new ways to celebrate artists and culture*

Toronto, ON (May 4, 2020) – Harbourfront Centre, renowned for its contemporary arts, culture and year-round programming, is cancelling its 2020 outdoor Summer Festival. This announcement aligns with the recommendations of Toronto Public Health, Public Health Ontario and Health Canada, and the recently announced Government of Ontario’s new roadmap for safely reopening the province. Under this guidance, live outdoor events will not be able to take place as planned.

“We are making this difficult decision out of an abundance of caution to protect the health and safety of our staff, the artists involved and our visitors,” said Marah Braye, CEO Harbourfront Centre. “We are disappointed, but health and safety will always be our top priority.”

The affected summer season runs from July 1 to Labour Day (September 7, 2020). Cancelled events so far include Canada Day Celebrations at Harbourfront Centre, Summer Music in the Garden, Dancing on the Pier, Island Soul, Habari Africa, Barbados on the Water, TAIWANfest, Ashkenaz Festival, and music concerts featuring acclaimed artists like Indigo Girls, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Lee “Scratch” Perry, Cœur de pirate and more. These events attract millions of visitors each summer to Harbourfront Centre’s vibrant waterfront and outdoor stages.

“There’s nothing like the experience of a live performance or coming together to connect through art, music, theatre and dance,” said Braye. “As we sadly say goodbye to some of our live, on-site events for the summer, these unprecedented challenges have inspired us to bring audiences new and stimulating ways to share in the diversity and cultures of the communities that make up our great city.”

Harbourfront Centre remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the creative community. In the coming weeks and months, Harbourfront Centre and its partners will unveil innovative new ways to re-imagine its festivals and programming to support artists in these challenging times and keep communities connected. Harbourfront Centre is proud to partner with the City of Toronto to present virtual Canada Day celebrations that will showcase Toronto on July 1.

Harbourfront Centre will remain closed until further notice. For more information and updates, visit [harbourfrontcentre.com](http://harbourfrontcentre.com) or call 416 973 4679.

### **About Harbourfront Centre**

Harbourfront Centre is a leading international centre for contemporary arts, culture and ideas, and a registered, charitable not-for-profit cultural organization operating a 10-acre campus on Toronto’s central waterfront. Harbourfront Centre provides year-round programming 52 weeks a year, seven days a week, supporting a wide range of artists and communities. We inspire audiences and visitors with a breadth of bold, ambitious and engaging experiences, and champion contemporary Canadian artists throughout their careers, presenting them alongside international artists, and fostering national and international artistic exchange between disciplines and cultures.

**Twitter:** [@HarbourfrontTO](https://twitter.com/HarbourfrontTO)

**Instagram:** [@harbourfrontcentre](https://www.instagram.com/harbourfrontcentre)

**Website:** [harbourfrontcentre.com](http://harbourfrontcentre.com)

### **Media Contact:**

Tran Nguyen, KWT Global

[tnguyen@kwtglobal.com](mailto:tnguyen@kwtglobal.com)

416 220 4285