



ARTISTS IN THE LIBRARY

2023 Program Guidelines

Application Deadline: October 2, 2023

TAC is committed to equity and inclusion and welcomes applications from diverse cultural and geographic communities within the City of Toronto. Specific equity measures or targeted programs are in place to ensure full access and participation by Black artists, Indigenous artists, artists of colour, artists who are Deaf, have disabilities or are living with mental illness, artists who self-identify as 2SLGBTQIAP, newcomer and refugee artists, young and emerging artists and artists working outside the downtown core. Learn more about what we are doing to make TAC more accessible and inclusive in our [Equity Framework](#).

What does this program support?

Created in 2014 as a partnership between Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Public Library, *Artists in the Library* program intends to provide paid opportunities and space for Toronto artists while increasing access to the arts in Etobicoke, York, North York, East York and Scarborough through programming in the local branches. Funding for this program is provided by the City of Toronto.

Artists in the Library program provides funding to professional artists, arts organizations and collectives working in any artistic discipline to create and deliver free **community-engaged arts programming** at one of the listed branches of the Toronto Public Library. This program encourages applications from TAC's equity priority groups, as well as emerging artists, those reconnecting with their artistic practice, and **artists local to the branches**.

Grant recipients will have an opportunity to explore their art practice in a community setting; access space and facilities for arts programming and presentation; engage with the branch and its surrounding community in a meaningful way; work closely and be supported by the branch team; navigate a multi-stakeholder environment and create and deliver community-engaged arts programming from start to finish.

Community engagement is a requirement in this program, but its format may vary. Activities may include exhibitions, installations, performances, concerts, screenings, readings, filmmaking, storytelling, workshops, artist talks, open studios, participatory programs, arts education and mentorship programs, presentations of work in progress, and other arts programming. Projects involving co-creation with community members, arts education and/or mentorship over a sustained period of time, including those designed to engage specific groups, are strongly encouraged to include opportunities for participation open to the broader public. Permanent exhibitions and installations are not eligible. All funded projects will be produced by the grant recipient and hosted and supported by the assigned library branch.

The grant amount is **\$20,000**. This grant may cover up to 100% of project costs.

Budget: Your budget should include all artist fees, materials, equipment rental, and any other project expenses. Payment of professional artist fees is a requirement of this program.

Timing: Programming in the branches will take place between September and December 2024.

Insurance and VSC: All grant recipients will be covered under TAC's liability insurance. Grant recipients and all collaborators working on the project might be required to complete Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). TPL will facilitate the process and will reimburse the cost of VSC for up to three (3) individuals per project.

Registration/ticketing: Activities can include drop-in and/or pre-registration. All tickets must be free of charge.

Participating Branches:

- 1) Albert Campbell (Scarborough)
- 2) Amesbury Park (North York)
- 3) Black Creek (North York)
- 4) Danforth/Coxwell (East York)
- 5) Ethennonnhawahstihnen' (North York)
- 6) Flemingdon Park (North York)
- 7) Malvern (Scarborough)
- 8) Maria A. Shchuka (York)
- 9) Maryvale (Scarborough)
- 10) Mount Dennis (York)
- 11) New Toronto (Etobicoke)
- 12) Richview (Etobicoke)
- 13) Victoria Village (North York)
- 14) Weston (York)
- 15) York Woods (North York)

Please see the branch descriptions at the end of this document. You can only apply to program one branch. Please include your branch of choice in the application, specifying alternative choices. Note: A different branch might be assigned. Not all branches will be programmed.

TAC Accessibility grant

Projects involving Deaf artists and artists with disabilities may apply for an additional TAC grant by completing the Accessibility Expenses section of the application and including the requisite information in their budget. A **TAC Accessibility grant** will provide up to a maximum of \$5,000 towards accessibility costs for artists incurred during the project. Accessibility costs include but are not limited to: ASL interpretation, audio description, closed captioning, communications assistants, attendant care (including helpers for Elders), support workers and equipment rentals or other supports required to meet artists' accessibility needs.

When can the project happen?

All projects must be completed in the 2024 calendar year and, in exceptional circumstances, no later than within two years of the date on the Notification Letter. The project cannot begin before the results are announced. Programming in the branches will take place between September and December 2024.

The duration and the structure of the project will depend on the proposal and can vary from regular workshops throughout four months to just a few larger-scale engagements and presentations to anything in between. The programming schedule will be developed in consultation with the branch staff. Scheduling options will vary, depending on the branch and its capacity to support programming activities.

Who can apply?

- This grant program is open to professional artists, not-for-profit arts organizations or collectives. Experience working with communities or children and youth is an asset.
- A professional artist is someone who has developed their skills through training and/or practice; is recognized as such by artists working in the same artistic field; actively practices their art; seeks payment for their work; and has a history of public presentation.
- TAC recognizes that due to systemic barriers within the broader arts community (e.g., limited mainstream presentation opportunities for artists from equity-seeking communities) some flexibility may be required in interpreting eligibility criteria to take into account equivalent professional experience and contexts. Potential applicants from equity-seeking communities are encouraged to discuss their eligibility with the Program Manager in advance of submitting an application.

- You may not apply as an individual and be part of an organization or collective applying in the same competition.
- You may not apply for the same project in different grants programs.

TAC has two distinct funding envelopes. Applicants may be eligible to apply for one grant in each category per year, so long as they have no overdue final reports. The two funding envelopes include:

1. **Arts Discipline:** project and operating grants in dance, visual arts, theatre, etc.
2. **Strategic Programs:** Animating Historic Sites, Open Door, etc.

With a few exceptions (TAC Leaders Lab, Newcomer & Refugee Artist Mentorship, TAC-CS Digital Solutions Incubator, Black Arts, Indigenous Arts), applicants can receive only one grant from each funding envelope per year. *The Artists in the Library* program falls within the Strategic Funding envelope. Any other Strategic Program grants must be completed with a final report filed and approved to meet eligibility criteria.

For individual applicants:

- Individuals must be Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents or have an application pending for Permanent Resident Status or be a Protected Person (approved refugee claimant) and, if requested, be able to provide documentation to verify this. Grant recipients must have a Social Insurance Number.
- Individuals must have been a resident of the City of Toronto for at least one year prior to the deadline, and live and work in Toronto for at least 8 months a year. A Post Office Box address cannot be used to meet the residency requirement.
- Professional artists pursuing graduate studies may not apply for work related to their program of study. A letter from the graduate program director specifying that the project is not related to the graduate student's program of studies must be submitted with the application.

For organizations and collectives:

- Organizations and collectives must be incorporated non-profit arts organizations or unincorporated arts collectives operating on a non-profit basis. A collective is defined as two or more artists working together under a group name, either on a single project (ad hoc) or on an ongoing basis.
- Organizations and collectives must be located in the City of Toronto. A Post Office Box address cannot be used to meet this requirement.
- For collectives of two artists, both must be City of Toronto residents. For collectives of more than two artists, most members must be City of Toronto residents.
- Collectives must be prepared to submit bank account information (in the name of the collective as listed in the application) if the application is successful.

This program does not fund:

- Undergraduate students;
- Commercial businesses or for-profit organizations;
- Costs related to equipment purchase, capital projects (capital assets such as vehicles, computers or cameras to be used beyond the duration of the project), fundraising projects, deficit reduction, publishing and archiving projects, awards and award ceremonies, projects conceived for competitive purposes, art therapy, academic research, commercial activities (i.e.: the sale of art);
- Activities taking place outside of the City of Toronto (research, touring, travel, accommodations);
- Ongoing operating costs, such as permanent staff salaries and general administration of an organization. This program is not intended to support an organization or collective's ongoing activities. Where a portion of permanent staff or administrative resources are dedicated to the project, you may estimate the value of these resources and include a detailed breakdown in the

- budget as in-kind revenue;
- Schools that are part of Ontario's public or private education system;
- Educational and religious institutions unless there is a clear separation in both programming and budget between their regular activities and their arts activities.

How do I apply?

Applicants register and submit the application on TAC Grants Online (<https://tac.smartsimple.ca>).

Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on the deadline date. TAC does not accept applications by any other means of delivery. You will receive a confirmation email when your application is submitted. Check your spam/junk mail folder if it doesn't arrive in your in-box.

New applicants to the program are encouraged to speak with the Program Manager prior to applying.

Application accessibility support for Deaf persons or persons with disabilities

Applicants who are Deaf or have a disability and need support to complete their grant applications can apply for funds to cover the costs of assistance from **Application Support Service Providers. Up to \$500 is available per eligible applicant in each calendar year.** Please contact your Grant Program Manager at least six weeks before the grant program deadline to determine eligibility, request application support funding, and to review the process for payment to be made to your Service Provider. Requests for application support require approval from the Grant Program Manager. Additional information [here](#).

What do I need to prepare?

The four main sections of this grant application are: Project Details, Project Description, Support Material, Budget Information.

- **Project Details:** branch selection and why this branch, project dates, project summary, project contributors form with brief bios for all contributors;
- **Project Description:** project overview (what do you want to do), artistic goals and objectives (why do you want to do it), how will you do it: outreach and audience development plan, workplan, access plan. Access planning relates to measures taken to make the event accessible to audiences. For more information on how to create an access plan, please refer to our external resource list on [accessibility in the arts](#);
- **Support Material:** audio/visual/printed examples of your work. Support Material is a critical component of the application. All applicants are required to submit examples of recent work that are relevant to the project. The support material should illustrate both the quality and nature of the artist's practice, and the artist's capacity to work in the context relevant to the proposed project.
 - Due to the number of applications submitted to this program, peer assessors will normally spend 5 minutes or less per application viewing support material. Works, therefore, may not be seen in their entirety.
 - You can upload your media files to TAC or provide links to an external website where your work has already been uploaded, such as Vimeo, YouTube, your personal website, etc. (recommended). If it's password protected, please also provide the password or any other instructions required to access the file. Do not submit materials through Google Drive.
 - Written support material, including press clippings, writing samples, letters of recommendations, must be uploaded in PDF format. Six pages maximum.
- **Budget Information:** budget table, supplementary budget PDF with detailed breakdown of artist fees and other expenses.

Are there requirements and guidelines for paying artists?

Grant recipients are required to pay artists' fees for professional artists, and encouraged to bring these fees into line with sector standards or, at a minimum, living wage benchmarks:

- Arts sector guidelines: [Carfac \(visual arts\)](#), [Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists](#), [Canadian Actors Equity – Independent Theatre Agreement](#), [Canadian Federation of Musicians](#)
- The Ontario Living Wage as a minimum standard for artists/arts workers' salaries and fees: [Ontario Living Wage by Region](#)

How is my application assessed?

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis by an independent grant review panel of practicing artists with input from the program partner (TPL). Peer assessors are selected on the basis of their familiarity with and specialized expertise in a broad spectrum of artistic practices and their direct experience in the Toronto arts community. Grant review panels are composed to ensure equitable representation from TAC's Equity Priority Groups as well as geographical communities and artistic disciplines. The grant review panel's recommendations are approved by TAC Directors.

The Grant review panel makes an assessment based on the applicants' past and proposed work within the context of each competition. The grant review panel evaluates all eligible applications in a comparative context and makes funding decisions based on the availability of funds, the program objectives, and the following assessment criteria:

- Artistic merit of the proposed project;
- Suitability of the proposed project for the space and resources available at the library branch selected by the applicant;
- Quality of experience the proposed project will provide to the participants / branch customers, and the benefits it will provide to the local community;
- Ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project;
- Financial viability of the project.

Included in the [Equity Framework](#) is an **Equity Priority Policy**, which states that if there are multiple well-assessed applications of equal merit in an adjudication round but insufficient funds in the grants budget to support all deserving candidates, applications proposed by applicants that self-identify as belonging to one or more of Toronto Arts Council's equity priority groups or that primarily involve or serve artists from these groups will be prioritized. Projects that involve local artists (or are proposed by artists with strong existing ties and partnerships with the local community) are prioritized in TAC's geographically specific Strategic Programs.

Project funding is recommended only at the discretion of the grant review panel. This is a competitive program. Applicants should be aware that meeting the general eligibility requirements does not guarantee that a grant will be recommended. Decisions of the grant review panel are final.

As the peer assessors and the applications change with each deadline, peer assessor evaluation of relative artistic merit will also vary. Unsuccessful applicants may succeed with another grant review panel and are encouraged to reapply.

How and when do I find out the application results?

TAC will send you an email when the results are available, and you will log in to TAC Grants Online to receive the results. Results are not released over the telephone. Notification will be issued within three months of the deadline date.

What if my project changes?

Grants may be used only for the purposes outlined in the application. Changes to the scale, activities and timeframe of the project must be reported promptly to TAC. In such cases, TAC may require full or partial repayment of the grant. Changes to project dates must be reported to the Grant Program Manager.

What do I do when I have completed my project?

Recipients are required to file a final report on their project. The final report is filled out and submitted online, just like the application. Future applications will not be accepted unless reports on previous funding

have been received and approved by TAC.

What are the rules or requirements for this funding?

- Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Understanding. The Letter of Understanding will detail the terms and conditions of the funding. The Letter of Understanding must be signed and uploaded to TAC Grants Online before funding can be released. The Letter of Understanding also describes situations that would require grant repayment.
- Successful applicants will also sign an **artist agreement with Toronto Public Library**.
- Grant recipients will be required to attend *Artists in the Library* Program Orientation Session in March 2024 (date TBA).
- Grants may only be used for the purposes outlined in the application. All projects must be completed within dates specified in your grant notification letter.
- Successful applicants will be required to undergo **Vulnerable Sector Check** for any programs directly engaging participants from vulnerable sector and, in some cases, for other programming.
- Submission of a Social Insurance Number will be required for Individual grant recipients only. Individual grant recipients will receive a T4A for the grant amount.
- Grant recipients are required to acknowledge the support of Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Public Library in all written materials related to the activities for which funds are granted. The TAC logo is available on our website; specifications for the size and placement of the logo should be commensurate with that of other donors or sponsors that have provided similar financial support. In lieu of the logo, the recipient may use the phrase “produced with the support of the City of Toronto through Toronto Arts Council.”
- Toronto Arts Council has moved to electronic payments. If your application is approved, you will be required to enter the bank account information of the grant recipient that corresponds to the Applicant Name on your Notification Letter. Bank information is submitted along with your Letter of Understanding and other Notification Letter Requirements.
- The City of Toronto requires that all organizations and individuals adopt a policy of non-discrimination as a condition of receiving a grant from the City. All successful applicants will be required to submit a signed Declaration of Compliance with Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Legislation and City Policy. A copy of the following [City documents can be downloaded from TAC's website](#): Anti-Racism, Access and Equity Policy Guidelines, Hate Activity Policy and Procedures and Human Rights and Harassment Policy and Procedures.
- Grant recipients are required to send TAC information on any public performances or events presented in the context of their grant-supported projects. This information should be emailed to the Strategic Programs Manager. Recipients may also be asked to provide information to the TAC Communications Manager.
- In addition to the aforementioned general conditions of funding, TAC reserves the right to place other conditions on the release of the grant (such as confirmation of venue, programming, other sources of funding, etc.). Any specific conditions will be contained in the Letter of Understanding.

Further questions

Contact Strategic Programs Manager **Lena Golubtsova** (she/her) at:

416-392-6802 ext. 219, lena@torontoartscouncil.org

APPENDIX A:

Artists in the Library Branch Descriptions

Albert Campbell

[Albert Campbell District Library](#) branch has been fully renovated to better serve the Birch Cliff Heights neighbourhood and surrounding areas in South Scarborough. The branch serves the area with population over 50,000 people, thirteen elementary schools and eight secondary schools. Three elementary schools and one secondary school are within walking distance. It is a diverse neighbourhood with a mixture of age groups, languages, ethnicities, and incomes.

The newly renovated facility is fully accessible including an elevator to all floors and a refreshed interior design to allow natural light to flow through the building. The large auditorium on the lower level can accommodate up to 232 people with flexible furniture options. Other service enhancements include: a Youth Hub; a new Digital Innovation Hub with a green screen room, 3D printers, audio/visual recording equipment and editing software; an Enhanced Learning Centre with hardware and software for digital learning and creation; and a program room for approximately 30 people with special ventilation to allow for indoor Indigenous smudging ceremonies.

Outdoor space is also an important new feature of the branch as the population density in the neighbourhood is increasing. A front entrance green space, including an Indigenous medicine garden, various native trees, a mural, and a rooftop terrace are welcoming places for quiet contemplation or lively outdoor programs.

Getting there: 496 Birchmount Road; TTC access and free parking on-site.

Amesbury Park

[Amesbury Park](#) branch first opened in 1967. Situated in a park, Amesbury branch offers lots of natural light and beauty. The catchment area stretches between 401 in the north, Caledonia in the east, former North York / Toronto boundary in the south and Black Creek Drive in the west. It is a diverse neighborhood with a mix of all age groups, ethnicities, and languages. There is a large East Asian immigrant population; significant senior population of Italian and Spanish heritage; and many young families new to Canada.

There are many elementary schools in the area and much of Amesbury programming is dedicated to children. There are a few daycares in the area as well as community agencies like the Jane Street Hub and North York Community House.

Amesbury features a knitting program for seniors and English Conversation classes for adults. The branch has recently received a neighbourhood tech kit of 11 laptops and a Play and Learn Stem Kit, which consists of a variety of robots. Amesbury participates in the Storywalk program each summer, which gives the public a chance to walk the grounds around the library while reading a story.

Getting there: 1565 Lawrence Avenue West; TTC access and free parking on-site; easy access to 401.

Black Creek

[Black Creek](#) is a small neighbourhood library located on the lower level of the North York Sheridan Mall, accessible by escalators or by the public elevator. The branch has a lovely large vignette of playing children, designed by a TPL staff member, on the wall in the children's area. The branch is much used by the community: mostly newcomers and established immigrant families.

North York Sheridan Mall is also home to COST Immigration Services, York Humber Employment Services and the Black Creek Community Health Centre. Black Creek has good relationships with all these organizations and refers customers as needed to the best help available.

Black Creek, due to its size, has small collections that circulate well. The study tables are very well populated during open hours. The branch staff answer numerous questions and do many hands-on impromptu tech support sessions for customers. With the return of in-person programming, children's programs are returning to previous levels: there is always a lively group for the year round after school club. Much of the children's programs revolve around arts, crafts and STEM. Adult programming centres on citizenship classes and Book-a-Librarian sessions.

Getting there: North York Sheridan Mall, 1700 Wilson Avenue; bus stops nearby; free parking.

Danforth/Coxwell

[Danforth/Coxwell](#) branch is located in the bustling lower east end of the city on Danforth at Coxwell. Serving a diverse population of approximately 15,500 individuals, the branch is a destination for families, a collaborative space for youth and a reading hub for adults and older adults. The branch serves a large Francophone community and regularly welcomes individuals from a wide gamut of socioeconomic and ethnocultural backgrounds.

The branch activates relationships between the Danforth East Community Association, Danforth Mosaic Business Improvement Area "The Danny", elementary and secondary schools as well as various childcare centres in the local catchment area.

The large programming room with kitchenette on the second floor hosts a variety of workshops with large draws for creative events including the "Let's Paint" series for children and Digital Illustration workshops for youth. The branch recently collaborated with a local Francophone daycare to exhibit art to increase awareness of climate change and with Toronto East End Arts to exhibit "The Space Beneath Us" installations during Nuit Blanche 2022.

Getting there: 1675 Danforth Avenue; near Coxwell subway station; paid and street parking.

Ethennonhawahstihnen'

[Ethennonhawahstihnen'](#) branch opened on July 4, 2023, to replace the Bayview Village Mall location that originally opened in 1966. Given the population growth of 30.2% from 2006 to 2016, the local community was underserved and a bigger branch was required. The Bayview branch moved to the new Ethennonhawahstihnen' location to a joint use facility in partnership with Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Toronto Children's Services. It houses the library, a community and aquatic centre, and a daycare. The new branch has been designed by MJMA Architects, who are known for designing open, inviting public spaces.

Early in 2023 the TPL Board approved the Naming Committee's recommendation to rename the relocated and rebuilt Bayview Branch Ethennonhawahstihnen'. Pronounced Etta-nonna wasti-nuh, this beautiful name means "where they had a good and beautiful life" in Wendat and acknowledges a nearby Wendat archeological site, containing an ossuary and village.

The benefits of the new branch include: the new branch expanded to 13,000 square feet; ample space for all residents including seniors, adults, children, teens, and newcomers will meet the needs of the expanding population of high-rise dwellers in the community; five spacious study pods for group meetings and/or quiet study space; increased opportunity for programming with the addition of a program room and enhanced programming opportunities in partnership with Parks, Forestry and Recreation; second program room will be available for quiet study and meeting spaces; park, pool and daycare in complex.

Getting there: 100 Ethennonhawahstihnen' Ln.; located directly behind Bessarion subway station; paid underground parking.

Flemingdon Park

[Flemingdon Park](#) library serves the multicultural neighbourhood, after which the library is named. This neighbourhood is a first stop for many newcomer families, and at one point, there were over 70 different languages spoken in Flemingdon Park. The Library Settlement Partnership staff helps many newcomers with settlement services.

Flemingdon Park library shares the building with the Dennis Timbrell Resource Centre. The library is a popular spot for youth and children, many of whom also participate in programs at the Centre. On weekday afternoons between 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm, the library converts its auditorium into the Youth Hub, a program-based space for teens 13 to 17. The youths enjoy games, programs, snacks, and socializing in the safe and welcoming Youth Hub space. The After School Club is popular among school-age children who enjoy art, craft, and STEM-based programs. The library has various resources for children, teens, and adults, but the children's picture books are among the highest circulating materials. Many families visit the library weekly on Saturdays and daily after school pick-up (3-4 pm) to return and borrow books.

Although smaller than the children and youth, the senior population in the neighbourhood actively uses the library. Seniors' programs are delivered in partnership with the Toronto Neighbourhood Organisation (Flemingdon Park) and are usually filled. Flemingdon Park library is a focal point in the community, and staff work closely with other organizations to serve the community's needs.

Getting there: 29 St. Dennis Drive; bus stop nearby; free parking.

Malvern

TPL's bright, busy, and welcoming [Malvern](#) branch was originally opened in the Malvern Recreation Centre in 1982. In 2003, the branch was closed for renovation and expansion. The resulting larger and improved branch, designed by Philip H. Carter and Kingsland & Architects Inc., reopened to the public in 2006. The current building is spacious and airy, with very high ceilings, windows on all sides, and visually striking natural wood beams throughout. It's an inviting and inspiring environment in which to spend a full afternoon or evening, and many of Malvern's community members choose to do just that on a regular basis. The Malvern branch is a well-loved and well-used community hub, offering a huge variety of resources, services, and programs to people of all ages.

As a neighbourhood, Malvern has eight elementary schools and three high schools, and the community is home to higher-than-average populations of children and youth. The branch includes the busiest Youth Hub in the city; a 13,000 sq. ft. auditorium that seats 100 and features a large theatre screen; a virtual interview room; a dance studio; a digital innovation space with a 3D printer and virtual reality equipment; as well as a learning centre with 10 workstations, an instructor station, a projector, and screen. Malvern is also home to an indoor tower garden; a pilot location for the period equity project (providing menstrual products for free in our public washrooms); a pilot location for the after-school snack program; and a branch that provides wifi hotspots for six-month loan periods, as well as free Presto cards to anyone who asks. The branch has collections for all ages, including the Rita Cox Caribbean Heritage Collection and collections in French, Chinese, Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi, Tagalog, and Urdu.

Getting there: 30 Sewells Road; bus stop nearby; free parking.

Maria A. Shchuka

[Maria A. Shchuka](#) branch is a bright, welcoming, and busy library serving a population of 36,000 in the diverse and vibrant York-Eglinton neighbourhood. This large two-storey branch has two program rooms: the larger 615 square-foot room holds 60 people and the smaller 390 square-foot room can accommodate 35. The branch offers a wide range of programming for all age groups. The branch has many community partnerships including with arts organizations. It also features an art exhibit space. A Youth Hub operates in

the branch 3:30-7:00pm Monday to Friday providing a safe space for local teens looking for homework help, a place to socialize, and programming. The branch is home to the Rita Cox Black & Caribbean Heritage collection.

Getting there: 1745 Eglinton Avenue West; bus stop nearby; free parking.

Maryvale

[Maryvale Branch](#) re-opened to the public in their new space in September 2022. The goal was to increase the size and to create a warm and welcoming space for the community. The original space was 4,990 sq. ft. and the expansion saw it increase to 11,746 sq. ft.

With the expanded space, Maryvale was able to almost double the size of the program room that allows staff to host various programs. The program room features glass doors that close when programs are taking place, tables on wheels, contains a moveable TV that is used for movies, User Education, class visits, etc. When the program room is not in use it is a study space for customers. Maryvale also welcomed Neighbourhood Tech Kits (NTK) containing laptops, which allow staff to host a wide range of User Education programs. In addition to the program room, the new location also has a smaller meeting/board room for those that just need a smaller space to host a meeting (great for smaller community groups).

Maryvale serves a diverse community with a population of over 30,000 that includes a high number of newcomers, seniors, young families, and teens. Popular languages spoken by the community are Arabic, Greek, Tagalog, and Tamil.

Getting there: Parkway Mall, 85 Ellesmere Road, Unit 22; bus stop nearby; free parking; the branch is easily accessible from the 401.

Mount Dennis

[Mount Dennis](#) is an accessible branch conveniently located along the future LRT, at the corner of Weston Road and Eglinton. The branch was renovated and reopened in 2013. The renovated building received the Award of Excellence for Public Buildings in Context. The entrance leads to an inviting lounging area. Another seating area option is the Reading Garden — a quiet place to sit in the summer and enjoy a green space. Mount Dennis is an active community with a focus on becoming an Eco Neighborhood. It supports and advocates for sustainable green standards.

A variety of materials in English and in Spanish are available to borrow. Digital access within the branch includes Wi-Fi, 20 public access computers, and 6 laptops. Programs include Baby Time, Family Time, Leading to Reading, Summer Reading Club and digital literacy.

The branch features a Youth Hub with drop-in programs for ages 13-17 from 3:30–7pm on weekdays. Teens receive a free snack, can attend fun programs, receive homework help, and can socialize with their peers. The KidsStop allows children to explore early literacy. Parents and children can find a cozy area to read or engage with many interactive activities. Highlighting the history of the neighbourhood — the home of Kodak in Canada — the KidsStop equipment teaches children about photography. A puppet stage allows children to be creative and have fun. Programs focusing on photography, community gardening, or visual arts are popular. There are a small and a large program room. Each room has an overhead projector. Adobe Creative Suite, Inkscape, and GIMP software is available in the Youth Hub.

Getting there: 1123 Weston Road; bus stop nearby; free parking.

New Toronto

[New Toronto](#) is a neighbourhood library located in Etobicoke, just South of Lakeshore. It features high ceilings and large windows creating an open and bright atmosphere. The library has 693 square-foot meeting room with a seating capacity of 50 persons. The room is carpeted, has a small storage and an

access to the kitchenette through the serving window. There is also a puppet show stage in the meeting room.

New Toronto neighbourhood has three elementary schools, two high schools, Humber College and Lakeshore Lodge Senior's residence, all within walking distance. The library serves customers with diverse backgrounds with a large senior population and many families with preschool and school age children. Art programs are popular with both family and senior audiences. Students usually come to do the research and study.

Getting there: 110 Eleventh Street; bus and streetcar stops nearby; free parking.

Richview Branch

[Richview Branch](#) is situated in Central Etobicoke. The building was opened in 1966. The first floor was completely renovated in 2011 and the lower level had a major renovation in 2015. The lower level houses a revitalized children's department with a striking colour palette and enlarged floor space. The 47,252 square-foot branch is a well-used and much-loved district library, serving a large community. As a district library, Richview is open 65.5 hours during the week and Saturdays, with 3.5 Sunday hours during the school year. The branch demographics are varied both in terms of the population as well as the socio-economic breakdown. It serves a multicultural community as well as a large senior population, which attends programs and uses a variety of services. The Richview branch has 23 elementary schools in its catchment area. Four elementary schools are within a 15-minute walking distance. Richview Branch hosts many programs that focus on the arts as well as ongoing art exhibitions. The branch features a beautiful art gallery space on the 2nd floor and a brand-new open and flexible auditorium in the lower level which can be used for programs.

Getting there: 1806 Islington Avenue; bus stop nearby; free parking.

Weston Branch

Originally built in 1914 following a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, [Weston Branch](#) is one of the few remaining Carnegie libraries in Toronto. Located in the heart of the vibrant and diverse Weston community, the Arts & Crafts style building features 21 stained glass windows with names of authors and Art Nouveau mosaic panels. The building was declared an Ontario Heritage building in 1979. Recognizing a need to expand the branch, the Borough of York approved an addition to be added, increasing the size from 4,300 to 12,000 square feet in 1982.

Today, Weston branch remains a much loved and well-used staple of the Weston community. It provides a wide variety of library materials and services to the neighbourhood's diverse population, including the recent addition of a Youth Hub, which is one of the busiest in the city. The branch features zoned areas for adults, teens, and children. Its layout encourages people to come together to learn, collaborate and enjoy spaces that are welcoming and accessible. With a substantial older adult population in the community, including a long-term residence facility directly across the street, the branch is a welcoming space for seniors. The collection includes an extensive Large Print collection, as well as audiobooks and a Playaway collection. Several daytime programs are geared towards older adult population including the Afternoon at the Movies program and the Low-Vision Friendly Book Club. The children's department, a very popular destination in the after-school hours, is situated on the lower level and has murals designed and painted by a former Weston resident. The branch features a beautiful landscaped lawn and a picturesque garden walkway leading to the main entrance of the library.

Getting there: 2 King Street; bus stop nearby; free parking.

Victoria Village

[Victoria Village](#) Branch opened in 1967. The branch is an appreciated part of the community, featuring a beautiful garden walkway leading to the front doors. Victoria Village Branch is nestled in a tight knit residential community of new families, established seniors, walkers, readers. The branch mainly serves young families, seniors and newcomers, although the customers are an eclectic mix of everyone.

The programs that are offered here are author visits, book club, finance, travel and history programs, school age children's programs and N2K programs. School age children's programs especially do well here. Recently the program English Reading Circle has been added. The large community room downstairs hosts these and other programs for the neighbourhood. The branch is right beside Victoria Village School; Sloane Public School is further down the road. Both schools have strong working relationship with the branch. The library also has partnerships with New Circles Community Services and the Victoria Park Hub. The community has been brought together by the various programs the branch offers — it is a much-needed hub of the community.

Getting there: 184 Sloane Avenue; bus stop nearby; free parking.

York Woods Branch

[York Woods](#) Branch has been a valued part of the community since 1970. It has recently undergone a major renovation and is reopening in summer 2023. The glass walled entrance provides a bright and unique look that invites and welcomes all library and theatre customers. The newly built lobby area creates a better connection between the theatre space and the library branch. A KidsStop early literacy centre is a literacy-rich, tactile learning environment for children and their caregivers to learn and play together. The KidsStop theme of Music was chosen to complement the addition of a Musical Instrument Lending Library to the branch and the strong musical legacy of the Jane/Finch community. The children's area also includes the Middle Years Discovery Zone, designed to encourage hands-on exploration and spark creativity in children ages 6-12. Located on the second floor is TPL's first purpose-built Youth Hub. The Youth Hub features a built-in kitchenette, adaptable furniture, access to laptop lending and colour printing.

The new Digital Innovation Hub is a learning and creation space with computers, professional software and a wide variety of equipment, including 3D printers, audio and video production tools, Arduinos and more. The Digital Innovation Hub will also feature a podcast recording studio. A new Musical Instrument Lending Library is a collection of various instruments (guitars, violins, bongos, keyboards and more) that can be borrowed for free with a valid library card. A new small meeting room on the main floor and the addition of five quiet study rooms upstairs provide space to support both independent work and collaborative efforts.

Getting there: 1785 Finch Avenue West; bus stop nearby; free parking.