



LAKESHORE ARTS

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April 4 2018

Lakeshore Arts and LAMP Community Health Centre Launch Project on Grief and Overdose

April 5 – 25, 2018 | Opening Reception: April 5, 6 – 9pm
2422 Lake Shore Blvd West

Lakeshore Arts and LAMP Community Health Centre's Harm Reduction program are launching a collaborative project called Remembering You. The project showcases poetry and art created by South Etobicoke community members who have lost loved ones to overdose, violence and complications from street life.

The project is a response to grief and loss in the South Etobicoke community following a number of traumatic deaths over the past two years. The deaths in Etobicoke mirror trends in the city, as Toronto's overdose and homeless deaths continue to rise.

"Exposure to adverse experiences is an unfortunate reality for people who are street involved," says Sarah Greig, Manager of Adult Programs at LAMP. "Fear, stigma, and ill equipped services act as barriers that prevent people from accessing meaningful supports following traumatic events."

Marissa Martins is a Harm Reduction Educator at LAMP. She has spearheaded the collaboration, organizing weekly drop-in sessions for community members to create art for the project. She says the community welcomed the chance to contribute.

"Art is such a powerful channel for all the complicated emotions that come up for people around grief and loss," says Martins. "The art is about anger, sadness, pain and love. It's been cathartic".

According to Martins, the project has also created space for a larger conversation about overdose prevention and trauma.

Lakeshore Arts will be hosting an opening of Remembering You on April 5 from 6pm-9pm. The night will include light refreshments and speakers from the project. The art will be displayed at Lakeshore Art's Community Project Space from April 5 to April 25. There will also be free copies of a booklet with prints of the art available.

About Lakeshore Arts

Lakeshore Arts, an award-winning community arts organization that focuses on creating innovative community arts programming that engages, educates, inspires and entertains, and is delivered by professional staff, artist facilitators and educators. Lakeshore Arts' storefront space serves as a community hub to experiment, grow and evolve new programming ideas in response to evolving community needs.

About LAMP Community Health Centre Adult Programs

Adult Drop-in offers a safe, welcoming space for homeless and marginally housed individuals offering nutritious meals, showers, hygiene products, harm reduction supplies, pet food, computer and phone access.

The Adult Drop-in aims to strengthen the community by supporting individuals in meeting basic needs, offering a welcoming and safe space, linking individuals to community services, supporting people to find and keep housing, decreasing social isolation by supporting the development of social support networks, and providing skill building opportunities.

Media Contacts

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