Museum of Toronto Announces Permanent Home in Downtown Toronto, Secures $35 M Transformational Gift

Toronto, ON, October 20, 2026 — Museum of Toronto will move into a permanent home at 2 Queen Street East, marking a major milestone in the institution's growth and in the city's evolving cultural landscape. The Museum is set to open its doors in spring 2027, supported by a $35 million transformational gift from philanthropists Diane Blake and Stephen Smith.

With this gift, Blake and Smith will have contributed in excess of $50M since 2014, when Museum of Toronto was founded and established as a not-for-profit charitable organization. This extraordinary gift allows the organization to open many new discussions that will support the growth of this incredible resource for Toronto. The Museum is actively seeking conversations with other potential partners who share our vision, including individuals and foundations, the business community, and all levels of government.

The new location establishes Museum of Toronto as a permanent civic institution dedicated to telling the stories of the city through the voices of the people who shape it. Partners on this project include Superkül, a local architecture and design firm retained to design and conceptualize the adaptive reuse of a former Bank of Montreal space, construction by mform and project management from Avison Young. The space will also showcase Museum of Toronto's new visual identity by Bruce Mau Design.

"It's been a privilege to collaborate with the passionate people behind Museum of Toronto to help realize its first purpose-designed space," said Meg Graham, Partner at Superkül. "Our city is defined by its diversity, its topography, and its vitality. From the Museum's open, street-level galleries to its flexible spaces for immersive programming, the design will reflect those qualities and give artists, storytellers, and curators a dynamic platform to bring Toronto's histories to life. This will be a museum of and for Toronto, through and through."

The new building will debut the inaugural permanent city history exhibition, *This Toronto of Ours: A City in Six Parts,* alongside a dynamic slate of rotating temporary exhibitions. The first special exhibition, *Lights, Camera, T.O.: Toronto on Film*, will explore the city's deep and often overlooked role in film and production, bringing together stories, voices, and moments that have shaped Toronto's on-screen identity.

"This is a defining moment for Museum of Toronto," said Heidi Reitmaier, CEO. "For over a decade, we've worked with experts and communities across the city to tell Toronto's stories in ways that reflect the diversity and complexity of our city. This transformational gift allows us to take the next step, to create a permanent home where our history can be shared, experienced, and questioned. At a time when Toronto is changing rapidly, creating space for connection and a shared sense of belonging is more important than ever."

Diane Blake emphasized the importance of investing in institutions that reflect the city's identity and future.

"Toronto is one of the most dynamic cities in the world, yet we never created the space to fully tell and celebrate our own history," said Blake. "We believe deeply in Museum of Toronto's vision and in the importance of building a lasting cultural institution that reflects this city. This is about creating something enduring that will serve Toronto for generations to come."

Located in the heart of downtown Toronto at one of the city's most prominent intersections, Museum of Toronto's new home will significantly expand its reach and visibility, offering a central, accessible space for exhibitions, programming, and community engagement. This wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of Diane Blake and Stephen Smith.

The move represents a critical step toward realizing the Museum's long-term vision of becoming a globally recognized, inclusive city museum.

Towards this aim, Museum of Toronto and the City of Toronto have recently formalized an alliance to explore future programmatic collaboration and opportunities to partner on projects. "As a global cultural capital, Toronto deserves top tier institutions able to compellingly and comprehensively tell the city's stories. With this development, Museum of Toronto will amplify our city's stories, histories and heroes," said Pat Tobin, General Manager of the City of Toronto's Economic Development and Culture Division. "We're proud to support Museum of Toronto, and work together to bring the city's story to life. They're creating a beautiful free space for Torontonians, where residents and visitors alike can all meet, hang out, learn and be inspired."

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About Museum of Toronto

Founded in 2014, Museum of Toronto is Toronto's City Museum. They offer a collection of experiences that tell the histories of Toronto. Their exhibitions and content aim to evoke curiosity and foster deeper connections between its visitors and the city. With a focus on building a living archive of the city, they strive to be a valuable resource for those interested in the cultural heritage of Toronto. Enjoy the Museum's programming in their downtown exhibition space, throughout the city, and online.

Museum of Toronto can be found across social media platforms at @MuseumofToronto on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. Learn more at www.museumoftoronto.com

About Superkül

Founded in 2002, Superkül delivers contextual architecture of enduring quality and character designed for livability and resilience. We have built a practice by saying yes to hard things, whether that's tackling complex renovations and retrofits, reimagining heritage spaces and cultural landmarks, or multiplying housing at various scales. Nothing inspires us more than a good challenge and creating spaces full of light, beauty, and life. Our objective is always to find ways to do more with less, designing for the present while anticipating the future. Sustainable and passive-first strategies are a hallmark of our practice — and our commitment to a world that demands greater care.

About Bruce Mau Design

Bruce Mau Design (BMD) is an internationally recognized brand design studio partnering with its clients to imagine and build better futures. Blending design, strategy, and systems thinking, the studio helps organizations navigate complexity to articulate who they are, what they stand for, and where they are headed. Beyond visual expression, BMD crafts holistic communications systems that allow brands to connect with their audiences in an authentic, experiential way. BMD is part of the 72andSunny Creative Collective.

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