

## Artists come together to combat homelessness

### *Design Hope Toronto fine art auction – April 8<sup>th</sup> 2011*

March 18, 2011, Toronto – Design Hope Toronto (DHT) is hosting its sixth annual fine art auction showcasing the talent of local artists. Inspired by the theme of ‘shelter’ over 20 artists and designers have created pieces from different mediums such as textile design, photography, sculpture and painting. The one-of-a-kind art will be auctioned live and raffled with all of the proceeds going to DHT’s beneficiary, the Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre (PARC).

Over the last two years, DHT’s annual event has raised \$34,000 to contribute towards the development of PARC’s new affordable and supportive housing unit, Edmond Place. Edmond Place is a renewed heritage property with 29 units of permanent, affordable, self-contained apartments for PARC members who have suffered with mental health barriers, struggled with addiction, and survived long periods of homelessness. PARC still needs additional funding to meet its capital equity campaign goal of \$500,000.

“This annual event provides artists of all backgrounds an opportunity to showcase their work for a deserving cause,” says Bill Ford, co-founder, Design Hope Toronto.

“Aligning with PARC for the third year in a row is a suitable fit because it is an organization with similar ideals - the belief that a stronger community is built through the efforts of many.”

This year’s event hosted by CBC’s Nick Czernkovich, hopes to exceed last year’s success of over \$19,000 raised. The event will be held on Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at St. John’s Parish Hall, 186 Cowan Avenue in Toronto. Admission is by donation and the event will also include good food, music and door prizes. Bill Kime of Waddington’s will return as auctioneer.

#### **About Design Hope Toronto**

Design Hope Toronto (DHT) is a volunteer initiative that shares the goals of the original Design Hope, founded in Hamilton in 2001. The Design Hope movement recognizes the critical role artists and designers play in articulating the human and political issues that affect our communities. Since 2005, DHT has raised over \$68,000 for various homeless initiatives.

Design Hope Toronto also welcomes personal and corporate donations to help PARC meet its needs. Visit [www.designhopetoronto.ca](http://www.designhopetoronto.ca) for more information.

#### **About Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre (PARC)**

Established in 1980, PARC serves the many low-income, former psychiatric patients in the Parkdale area. Following this theme, PARC is redeveloping 1495 Queen Street West for the creation of Edmond Place, a multi-unit affordable and supportive housing complex for people with mental health issues.

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For more information, contact Leah Gaucher, (416) 888-1402, [lgaucher@blueskycommunications.com](mailto:lgaucher@blueskycommunications.com).

**MISSION:** Artists, designers and their communities raising funds and awareness for those in need.

**DESIGN HOPE  
TORONTO  
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