

# The centrepiece of Regent Park's arts scene

**Condo trends.** In the transformed community, the Daniels Spectrum building is playing an important role

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The Regent Park commun-

ity took the wraps off its new \$38-million arts centre at a public opening last week, attended by some of Toronto's well-known luminaries of the arts and development industries.

Originally named the Regent Park Arts and Cultural Centre, the facility has been renamed to Daniels Spectrum in recognition of a \$4 million lead gift from the Daniels Corporation and the John and Myrna Daniels charitable foundation. A total of \$5.7

million in additional charitable contributions was also announced at the event.

The result of more than seven years of collaboration between the Regent Park Community, Artscape, Toronto Community Housing and the Daniels Corporation, the new facility will be the centrepiece of the neighbourhood arts scene. The main theatre is a magnificent, fully-equipped, high-tech performance space with adjoin-

ing workspaces that allow local artists to collaborate.

"Buildings, arts, culture are an expression of our civic scene, our identity," said Glen Murray, MPP for Toronto Centre, was on hand for the event. "They're a manifestation of who we are and everything we see around us."

Of the corporate sponsorships, he said, "These people have taken social corporate responsibility, truly shared value and are a model corpor-



The Daniels Spectrum arts centre is a collaboration between the Regent Park Community, Artscape and Toronto Community Housing. SUBMITTED

ation in our society right now for social engagement."

Artscape, a not-for-profit organization that makes affordable space for artists from underutilized buildings, were instrumental in creating the new space.

"It's a real testament to the strength, the integrity, the courage of our partners at Daniels, at Toronto Community Housing, the Regent Park residents and our tenants in the role that they played in making this incredible place happen," said president and CEO Tim Jones.

Many new and existing organizations will benefit from the centre, including the At-Heart Community Art Centre,

the Centre for Social Innovation, the COBA collective of Black Artists, Native Earth Performing Arts and Pathways to Education.

The centre will also be the new home to the Regent Park Film Festival, bringing public screenings of independent film to the community. The Regent Park School of Music which was founded in 1999, will also be operating out of the facility.

Daniels has actively been involved in the transformation of the 69-acre Regent Park area with new developments like the Paintbox condominiums, and champions neighbourhood initiatives supporting charities and non-profit organizations.