



Guest Speaker Series: Session 1

“Our Canada, Your Canada”

Thursday March 15, 2012 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Centennial College Progress Campus, Library and Administration Building, Room L1-16.
941 Progress Avenue, Toronto. Free admission.

Agenda

- [Recreation and Culture for Newcomers in the City of Toronto](#) (Christine Mitchell)
- [ROMCAN program as an instrument for social inclusion](#) (Johanna Contreras)
- Student Panelists:
 - **The Evolution of the Cultural Access Pass** (Jansten Labagnao and Susan Mackie)
 - **An Exchange of Immigrant Integration Practices** (Bing Wang)

The Series will resume with Session 2: “Digitally Speaking”, the following week on Thursday, March 22 at the same time and place.

Recreation and Culture for Newcomers in the City of Toronto

This presentation will cover current programs, best practices and how recreation and culture can positively affect newcomers health and well being.

Christine Mitchell

Christine Mitchell has been working in Arts, Culture and Recreation for over 10 years. She has worked for The Harbourfront Centre, The Living Arts Centre, Girl Guides and she presently works for the City of Toronto Parks and Recreation and the Art Gallery of Ontario. In her current position for the City of Toronto she works with families receiving social assistance to develop a recreation action plan to ensure families are happy, healthy and active.

Christine has a passion for reaching out to new communities and building diverse audiences. She specializes in arts programming, program development with an anti-oppression framework and youth engagement.

Christine has a BA in Fine Arts with a minor in Psychology and a Post Graduate in Art Therapy. Christine is currently working towards a Graduate Diploma in Recreation Therapy.

ROMCAN program as an instrument for social inclusion

The Royal Ontario Museum's Community Access Network (ROMCAN) was created in 2008 to enable Museum's participation and access for diverse communities who may not otherwise have the opportunity to visit the Museum. Programs like ROMCAN eliminate barriers that might otherwise keep people from visiting the Museum. Unlocking the ROM's power to engage, share and inspire, extends the Museum's potential to act as an agent of social inclusion. In 2011, ROMCAN program expanded 50%, welcoming more than 30 new key community groups and organizations and reaching up to 75,000 Ontarians, including new Canadians and newcomers to Canada.

Johanna Contreras

Johanna Contreras is the Access Program Manager at the Royal Ontario Museum. Of utmost importance to her role is the ability to forge authentic connections with broader community and develop a sense of urgency towards inclusion. Since joining the ROM in 2009, Johanna has been instrumental in the success of the ROM Community Access Network program.

Last year, increased participation with an expanded network of key agency partners, ROMCAN reached more diverse communities across Ontario than ever before. Johanna, as part of the ROM Access Team, received the 2011 REACH Award, which honours individual(s) and team(s) whose exceptional contributions to the ROM's quality of service, caring, and whose commitment to ROM values have made a significant contribution to the Museum.

Johanna holds a BFA degree of Fine Arts and Visual Arts from the University of Francisco Jose de Caldas in Colombia and a post-degree Diploma in Arts Management from the University of Western Ontario.