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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For immediate release

### **\$80,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Helps Shenkman Arts Centre Partners Prepare for Future Growth**

**Ottawa, Ontario** – The future residents of the Shenkman Arts Centre celebrated today, a grant for \$80,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

The funds will help the Arts Ottawa East (AOE), Gloucester Pottery School (GPS), Mouvement d'implication francophone d'Orleans (MIFO), Orleans Young Players Theatre School (OYPTS) and Visual Arts Centre, Orleans (VACO) prepare for the organizational growth they will face when the doors to the Shenkman Arts Centre open in May 2009. This funding follows an initial funding from the OTF in 2007, which resulted in the completion of needs assessments for each member of the collaborative.

This second phase of the project is crucial to the success of each member of the collaborative. It will strengthen these organizations and in turn, will result in high-quality programs, services and resources being available and accessible to the entire community. Residents of all ages will benefit from the much-needed quality services and programming which will be offered by the collaborative in the Shenkman Arts Centre.

MPP for Ottawa-Orleans Phil McNeely joined OTF representative Frank Dyson in congratulating the Shenkman Arts Centre Partners on receiving funding for their project this morning.

"Arts Ottawa East and its collaborative partners have provided excellent opportunities to showcase the impressive talent of our arts community," said McNeely. "The hard work of these organizations has greatly contributed to the growth and success of our arts community, including a wealth of arts programming for Orleans that appeal to diverse interests of Orleans. My thanks go out to all the dedicated volunteers and staff who have worked so hard to ensure the people of Orleans are provided with opportunities to express themselves in a variety of arts disciplines."

The fundamental goal of this project is to ensure the collaborative organizations' abilities to provide quality and broad-ranging activities for the entire community in their new home, the Shenkman Arts Centre. Led by AOE, the partners have already begun working with consultants on board governance, strategic planning, organizational development, human resource and volunteer management, financial management, and marketing and communications.

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“On behalf of the Shenkman Arts Centre Partners, I would like to thank OTF for its generous support of our project,” said AOE Executive Director Christine Tremblay. “We have already begun to see incredible progress and growth within our organizations thanks to the meetings and workshops with our consultants. None of this would have been possible without this funding. OTF is playing an important role in ensuring our success in the Shenkman Arts Centre.”

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. It continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org).

**Source:** Micheline Joannis, Director of Communications, Arts Ottawa East, 613-749-4978, 613-277-5722 or [micheline@artsoe.ca](mailto:micheline@artsoe.ca).