



**arts ottawa
east-est**
arts council – conseil des arts

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGO UNTIL: 10:00 a.m., September 24th, 2007

Shenkman Family Foundation donates \$1 million, launching ARTicipate endowment fund campaign

Orléans, September 24, 2007 – ARTicipate, an innovative fundraising campaign was launched today, receiving its first major donation, a \$1 million gift from the Shenkman Family Foundation. The donation will see the new arts facility in the east end, commonly known as the Orleans Arts Centre, being named the Shenkman Arts Centre.

“The Board of Directors of the Shenkman Family Foundation is very pleased to make the lead gift in the ARTicipate campaign, providing sustaining funds for the new Shenkman Arts Centre,” said President Bill Shenkman. “The Shenkman name is synonymous with more than one hundred years of business and philanthropic activity enhancing the lives of the region’s citizens. We truly believe this donation will go a long way to further support our values and beliefs.”

Spearheaded by the community arts council Arts Ottawa East, the ARTicipate! endowment fund campaign will ensure a sustainable future for arts and culture and bring life to the community. All will benefit from the fund, as it will result in high-quality programming and the proliferation of the arts economy. The fund will support the arts partners who will be the residents of the Centre des arts Shenkman Arts Centre. It will also support innovative arts initiatives by local artists and arts organizations which will take place in the Centre.

“Arts Ottawa East is extremely grateful to Bill Shenkman and the Shenkman Family Foundation for their generous donation. Through their support they have not only launched AOE’s endowment fund campaign, they have also set a positive example for other philanthropists in the city of Ottawa,” said AOE’s Executive Director Christine Tremblay. “As strong believers in community building they have become our champions, recognizing that a wide variety of social and business issues are closely intertwined. By strengthening the fabric of our community in one area, they are strengthening it in others at the same time.”

The Shenkman Arts Centre will have a profound effect on the cultural life of the city. It will play a vital, catalytic role in ensuring artists are given the forum they need to nurture creativity and audiences are given access to dynamic and thought provoking arts programming in a facility that matches creative excellence. The centre, which is scheduled to open its doors in the Spring of 2009, will be a community focal point and gathering place for young and old, offering English and French programs and entertainment at all levels.

/...2



**arts ottawa
east-est**
arts council – conseil des arts

-2-

About Arts Ottawa East

AOE is a vibrant, pro-active not-for-profit community arts council dedicated to promoting, supporting and developing the practice and appreciation of the arts at all levels in Ottawa. AOE inspires and assists arts organizations and individual artists who create and present the visual, performing, media and literary arts in our community and who contribute to our cultural landscape. For over 15 years, AOE has been a tireless advocate for a professional east end community arts facility.

For more information, please visit www.artsoe.ca.

– 30 –

Event time and location:

10:15 a.m.

Orleans Client Services Centre
255 Centrum Boulevard
Orléans, ON K1J 8W6

Source:

Micheline Joanisse, Development/Communications Coordinator, Arts Ottawa East, 613-749-4978, micheline@artsoe.ca.