

We Built This City



Presented by Crazy Dames at the Gardiner Museum
July 25 - August 5, 2016

Crazy Dames is a reclamation and an ode to Jane Jacobs, the seminal urban theorist who was often dismissed as a 'crazy dame' by male counterparts. We use the artist's studio as an experimental lab to test Jacobs' 'crazy' ideas - her focus on people and her tradition of fostering tactical and collaborative approaches to citybuilding. As a collaboration between Jennie Suddick, a visual artist/educator, and Sara Udow, an urban/community/cultural planner, **we develop creative, and experiential spaces aimed at generating conversations and new ideas about how we design, interact and play in our cities.**

We Built this City is a **playful way to engage diverse communities in animating, changing, and improving our everyday experiences.** Over the course of the two weeks, Crazy Dames will work with participants to create a scale version of the neighbourhood, build forts, and engage in workshops, as a way to reimagine our public spaces.



"WHO IS THIS CRAZY DAME?"

Jane Jacobs was radical. She rejected the top-down, male-dominated approaches to city planning and advocated for small-scale, bottom up interventions to our streets, neighbourhoods and communities. With no formal urban planning training and without a college degree, she was often criticized as a 'crazy dame' and 'a housewife', who was just offering 'Mother Jacobs remedies'.

WE BUILT THIS CITY AT THE GARDINER MUSEUM

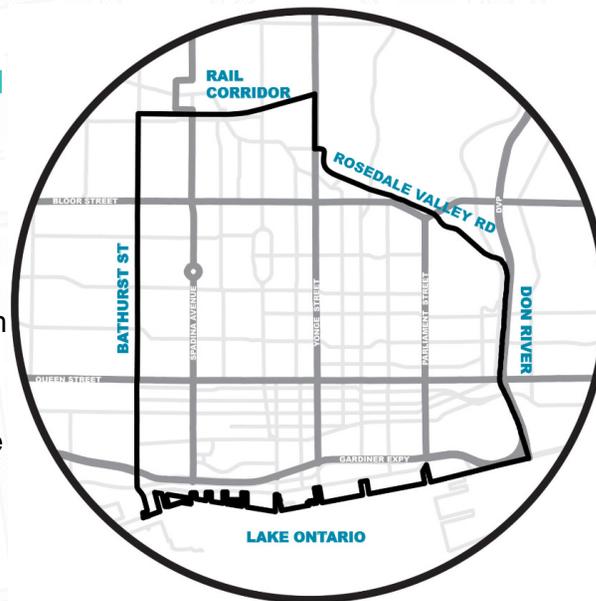
July 25 - August 5, 2016



Play is an important concept when it comes to cities. In city spaces, play can bring people together and foster social interaction, through playgrounds, public art projects and festivals. Play in the urban planning process is just as important. It can bring us back to a childlike frame of mind that embraces and prioritizes creativity and discovery, allowing us to contemplate different ways of seeing that are not typically considered as 'practical solutions' to our cities' problems.

We Built this City asks: **how can we incorporate play in our cityscapes - both in design and practice?**

The program coincides with the City of Toronto Planning Division's TO CORE initiative, a study that looks at using growth in Toronto's Downtown to make the city a great place to live, work, learn, play and invest. We Built This City fosters a creative space to engage the public to dream of new possibilities and get their hands dirty in the process.



The TO Core Study Area

We Built This City includes a series of workshops, outlined below. Register for any of these events through the [Gardiner Museum website](#).

Workshops

1. HOW TO BUILD A BLANKET FORT

July 25th, 2016, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

HOW TO BUILD A BLANKET FORT is a workshop that invites participants to work together to transform the Gardiner Museum Community Art Space into an epic version of a quintessential childhood space. This creates a playful and whimsical space to engage in dialogue and creation, in which the convergences of arts based inquiry and city building can be realized.

2. WALKSHOP SERIES

July 26th - August 5th

Throughout the exhibit, Sara and Jennie have organized 'walkshops' in collaboration with urban planners, artists and other community members. These walkshops are intended to be interactive, playful and imaginative walking tours of the surrounding neighbourhood, to foster artistic thinking and learning about our city spaces.

3. ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

July 26th - August 5th, 2016

For the entire duration of the project, Jennie will act as the Artist-in-Residence, asking visitors of the museum to engage in an expansive clay maquette. The public will be invited to contribute to this collaborative art piece. This piece will be a reimagining and reconstruction of the surrounding environment of the museum, which can be guided both by practical needs and fantastical ideas.

4. MAXIMUM CITY HALF DAY WORKSHOP

Wednesday July 27th, 2016, 12:30 - 4:00 PM

Crazy Dames has partnered with Maximum City, an award-winning summer program and enriched curricular experience for young city builders between the ages of 10 and 17. For the week of July 25-July 29, Maximum City will focus on the theme 'art and city building' and will feature workshops facilitated by Crazy Dames at the Gardiner Museum.

5. EXPLORATIONS IN THE CITY - WHERE PLAY MEETS ART, EDUCATION AND DESIGN - CLOSING PANEL AND RECEPTION

Thursday August 4th, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

This closing panel will ask panelists from a diversity of perspectives (political, design, education and art curation) to join the conversation on the role creative forms of exploration in cities could and should play in both the urban design and the planning process.

Panelists include:

Kristyn Wong-Tam, City Councillor of Ward 27;

Adam Nicklin, Partner and co-founder of Public Work an award winning urban design and landscape architecture firm;

Josh Fullan, educator, consultant and founder of Maximum City; and

Janine Marchessault, public art curator and Professor of Media Studies at York University.

Check out the Panelist Bios [here](#).



crazydames.com



Playful Planning - How to Build a Blanket Fort, Prince Edward County June 2016

Walkshop Descriptions and Times

Taking an Object for a Walk

Taking an Object for a Walk is a chance for objects within the collection of the Gardiner to “leave” the museum with museum goers. Where would you take a 15th century vase from China, or a porcelain figurine from 18th century Germany? Participants will converge for a briefing, visit the galleries to choose an object to “take for a walk” and then draw their chosen object before taking their “object” out of the Gardiner Museum for a walk. We will reconvene to discuss where people went and why and what occurred on their walks. The duration should be under 2 hours.

Tuesday July 26, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Walkshop: Not Zoned for Dancing: A Walk Through Downtown Toronto’s Evolving Entertainment District

Based off of their study for the City of Toronto’s Office of the Chief Planner, the research team—urban planners Anna Wynveen, Brenton Nader, Carolyn Rowan, Chris Hilbrecht, and Kyle Miller— will attempt to walk you through the definition, history, and current phases of entertainment in downtown Toronto. As downtown Toronto experiences intensification of residential/commercial development and tastes change, how will the entertainment sector shift and adapt? How will our city’s downtown “playscape” evolve?

Thursday July 28, 8 - 9:30 pm

Maximum City Walk

Maximum City summer program students will lead a walk of the neighbourhood using the arts based inquiry tools they learn during their workshop with Crazy Dames.

Friday July 29, 2 - 3 pm

Escape from Intern Purgatory

Two unpaid interns are trying to get back to their home, Tough Guy Mountain. They’ll need the audience’s help to explore the city and, hopefully, make it back to the Brandscape in one piece. Tough Guy Mountain is an artist collective focusing on the glories, trials, and absurdity of late capitalism.

Saturday July 30, 2-3:30 PM

Everything All The Time: Using Sound to Collapse Time & Space

How do the sounds of our city narrate particular experiences, shape spaces, and foster (dis)connections? How would we locate ourselves if we could hear everything all the time? Participants in this “walkshop” will use a ubiquitous tool—their cell phones—to create an audio record of one particular day and time, across different sites, in an effort to co-create a unique soundscape, one which captures a multitude of isolated perspectives on urbanism and then gathers them to produce something whole and unknown. Zev Farber is an interdisciplinary artist. His practice involves integrating sound, programming, video, and still imagery into layered narratives which often blur the line between documented and fictional histories.

Sunday July 31, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Walk, Talk, Play

This interactive and open-ended walking tour of the neighbourhood is led by Crazy Dames and will encourage participants to share their own stories about places that are meaningful to them as we walk.

Monday August 1, 2 - 3:30 pm

A Tour of Public ARTivism

Join The STEPS Initiative on a tour of some of downtown Toronto's public art interventions. Over the course of this walk, participants will visit public art interventions in unlikely spaces within the downtown core. These include construction sites, which line our streets for up to five years and can be leveraged as cultural spaces. The STEPS team will also provide an overview of recent legislation that requires urban developers to make more room for community art in their projects. We hope you will leave the walk with new ideas on how to push the boundaries for creating more cultural spaces, and how projects of all sizes can reimagine and harness the potential of the public realm for all Torontonians.

Tuesday August 2, 4 - 6 pm

Secrets of the Gardiner

Take a walking tour with Jay Wall, creative director of Studio Jaywall, a social impact communications design team that specializes in creative strategy and graphic design for social, environmental, cultural and urbanism initiatives.

Wednesday August 3, 4 - 5:30 pm

From Place to Being

"Maps flip our attention from being to place, / from metaphysical time, to streets, roads and clocks. / Maps cheat our prospective response to depth" (Maps, Lee Maracle). Forget Google Maps and your handy-dandy GPS. From Place to Being asks participants to (re)discover the wonder of undefined paths. Together we will take a collective route, but the maps we each create on this walkshop highlight our personal experiences, stories and contexts, focusing on what we care about, what catches our eye, and asking us to determine what is important and interesting enough to make it onto a map.

Thursday August 4, 4 - 5:30 pm





THE CRAZY DAMES MANDATE

We see cities as social and aesthetic environments and believe that collaborative, artistic and playful interventions are needed to address many of our cities' issues, whether it is searching for creative approaches to community engagement or developing new designs for underutilized spaces.

As constant collaborators, we combine our diverse perspectives and skillsets to explore the role artists can play in shaping our cities, through small-scale, tactical artistic happenings and creative forums.

We intend to bring the observations and lessons we learn through this artistic inquiry back to our fields in the arts and urban planning, respectively. We believe that this interdisciplinary approach to research and pedagogy can form new perspectives and opportunities for problem solving and creative thinking in both fields.

WHO WE ARE

Jennie Suddick is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Toronto. She is currently an Assistant Professor and the Associate Chair, Contemporary Drawing and Print Media at OCAD University. Her practice underscores personal bonds to objects, images, ideas and places that are shared and repeated, acknowledging the imprint these entities leave on individuals (and vice-versa). Community engagement and interactivity are prevalent considerations in her practice, aiming to create collaborative opportunities for viewers to directly inform the development and experience of artworks.



Sara Udow is an urban and community planner at Gladki Planning Associates who is passionate about engaging people in city building. Through her work as an urban planner, Sara works with diverse communities to collaboratively identify priorities in their neighbourhoods. Prior to her work as an urban planner, Sara was involved in the arts and cultural sector, where she worked to engage people of all ages in the world of public art.





crazydames.com

Please get in touch!

website: www.crazydames.com

insta: [crazy_dames](https://www.instagram.com/crazy_dames)

twitter: [@thecrazydames](https://twitter.com/thecrazydames)

fb: <https://www.facebook.com/crazydames>

Thank you to our partners!



Celebrating the Art of Ceramics



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario