



Toronto Public Library Foundation's 3rd Annual *Biblio Bash* Supports Free and Equitable Access to Library Services for all Torontonians

- The 2019 Biblio Bash, Presented by TD Bank Group, is co-hosted by the hosts of CTV's *The Social* and features a new documentary short, 'A Day in the Life of Toronto Public Library' starring Rick Mercer -

- TPLF calls on Torontonians to join in and contribute to the first-ever Biblio Bash Community Campaign at bibliobash.ca/give -

TORONTO, April 22, 2019 – Biblio Bash, presented by TD Bank Group, is the Toronto Public Library Foundation's (TPLF) annual fundraiser that brings together authors, philanthropists, business leaders and city builders all in support of Toronto Public Library. This year's fundraising focus is to ensure Torontonians have free and convenient access to the tools they need to put them on the path to lifelong success. Taking place in the second floor stacks and atrium of the Toronto Reference Library, the black-tie gala will support two important Toronto Public Library (TPL) priorities: bringing books and information to under-served communities, and helping children succeed in school and thrive in life.

The spectacular evening, led by Biblio Bash Co-Chairs Claire McIntyre and Ellen Webster, will celebrate the world's busiest public library system and raise funds to put toward:

- ✓ **TPL BOOKMOBILE:** The purchase of a new Bookmobile will provide under-served communities with improved access to a full range of library services. TPL's mobile library currently makes 28 weekly stops across the city including apartment complexes, shopping malls, community centres and shelters, with an onboard collection of 2,500 books and DVDs targeted to children, youth, seniors and newcomers. Bookmobiles can also offer Wi-Fi, online resources and serve as a community gathering space for indoor and outdoor programming such as story time for families.
- ✓ **TPL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:** Funds raised at Biblio Bash will also contribute to children succeeding in school and thriving in life, by ensuring TPL's After School Clubs at 46 branches are equipped with the essential materials, exceptional programs and nutritional snacks required to help kids to concentrate and complete their homework.

"TD is proud to support Biblio Bash 2019 and work with the Toronto Public Library to make a difference in our communities," says Andrea Barrack, Global Head, Sustainability and Corporate Citizenship, at TD. "As part of our corporate citizenship platform, The Ready Commitment, we're helping to open doors for a more inclusive tomorrow. Libraries play an important role in providing access to tools and services to help people live their lives with more confidence and create public spaces where everyone belongs. I am thrilled to recognize on behalf of TD the outstanding work the Toronto Public Library does to support families and under-served communities through its various programs."

Torontonians can also join the “I’m Library People” movement and support TPLF’s efforts to increase access to these vital services by making their own gift to the **Biblio Bash Community Campaign**. Donations are being accepted until April 30, 2019 at bibliobash.ca/give.

Hosting an event together for the very first time, and bringing attention to a cause they care about, **Jessica Allen, Melissa Grelo, Marci Ien, Cynthia Loyst** and **Lainey Lui** from CTV’s popular daytime talk show *The Social* will take the stage at Biblio Bash to shine a bright light on the vital work being done at Toronto Public Library. The sold-out evening will also showcase 43 notable authors including **André Alexis, Arif Anwar, Linwood Barclay, Dan Bilefsky, Claudia Dey, Bruce and Vicki Heyman, B. Denham Jolly, Shari Lapena, Linden MacIntyre, Jody Mitic, Carol Off, Andrew Pyper, Anthony Rose, Mark Sakamoto, Tanya Talaga, Dr. Dave Williams** and **Samra Zafar**, each author acting as a table host.

Over 450 guests will enjoy dinner curated by **Chef Cory Vitiello** from 10tation Catering in the library’s atrium designed by iconic Canadian architect Raymond Moriyama. The popular library portrait studio will be brought to life by celebrity photographer **George Pimentel**, and TPLF will debut a new documentary short which takes a comedic and heartfelt look at *A Day in the Life of Toronto Public Library* starring funnyman and TV personality **Rick Mercer**.

With 100 branches across the city, Toronto Public Library is the world’s busiest public library system. Used by over 70 per cent of Torontonians, Toronto Public Library offers a diverse selection of services and programs including welcoming, safe public spaces equipped with books, free Wi-Fi and public computers in neighbourhoods across the city; programs ranging from kids’ story time to literary and cultural events; and access to eBooks, streaming video and music. Many of the programs and services are made possible through the Toronto Public Library Foundation’s fundraising efforts.

Biblio Bash is grateful for the generous support of the 2019 Biblio Bash sponsors: TD Bank Group, Presenting Sponsor; Labatt Breweries of Canada, Dinner Sponsor; Gerald Sheff and Shanitha Kachan Charitable Foundation, Author Host Sponsor; Mantella Corporation, Library Lounge Sponsor; Air Canada, Airline Sponsor; Whitehots, Documentary Sponsor; Holt Renfrew, Entrance Sponsor; Moez and Marissa Kassam Foundation, Matching Gift Sponsor; Rogers Communications Inc., Portrait Studio Sponsor; Toronto Star and Toronto Life, Media Sponsors; The St. Regis Toronto, Hotel Sponsor and CJ Graphics Inc., Print Sponsor.

For more information and the complete list of authors attending **Biblio Bash**, please visit bibliobash.ca. #BiblioBash

ABOUT THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Toronto Public Library Foundation is a registered charity that raises funds to support the exemplary collections, ground-breaking programs and services, and the innovative community spaces at the world’s busiest public library system; Toronto Public Library. Since its inception in 1997, the Foundation has raised over \$84 million thanks to generous donors and corporate partners who have helped fund such popular and beloved programs as the TD Summer Reading Club and the Museum + Arts Pass (MAP). Donating to Toronto Public Library is an investment in literacy, education, culture and in the vitality of a world-class city.

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