

# Devon Ostrom

MA Curating, CE NPO, CE HRM Management // [devon@beautifulcity.ca](mailto:devon@beautifulcity.ca) // 647.267.4221 // #97014, 149 Roncesvalles, Toronto ON Canada, M6R 3B3

## ARTS MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

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*BeautifulCity.ca Alliance (02-10)*

### **Founder / Coordinator**

- Assembled and coordinated alliance of over 60 organizations to put a tax on billboards to fund art in the public sphere.
- Membership includes organizations ranging from the AGO to the Elementary Teachers of Toronto.
- Billboard tax and bylaw drastically improving protection of public spaces passed council 11/29. Secured \$1.8 million for bylaw enforcement and \$1.7 in arts in 2010. \$10.4 million to be generated in 2011 when fully established. Recently Toronto City Council decided 33/13 to direct staff to strategize on how to put the revenue toward art on a semi-permanent basis.
- Please view <http://www.BeautifulCity.ca>

*Manifesto Community Projects (07-10)*

### **Visual Arts Director, Manifesto Festival of Community and Culture**

- Coordinated hundreds of local, national and international artists, projects and curators for annual summer festival.
- Festival co-founder and mentor to Che Kothari.
- Please view: <http://www.themanifesto.ca>

*Royal Ontario Museum, Institute for Contemporary Culture (Oct 08-July 09)*

### **Guest Curator**

- Curator for 'Housepaint, Phase 2 Shelter,' including the commission of six new site specific installations and seven months of community programming, lectures and outreach to sustainable housing stakeholders.
- Close to 10K raised for Habitat for Humanity.
- Please view <http://www.housepaint.ca>

*Ignite the Americas, Department of Canadian Heritage 2008 (Aug-Nov 08)*

### **Curator / Visual Arts Director**

- Directed multiple projects and exhibitions involving 80 artists from over 30 countries.
- Please view: <http://www.ignitetheamericas.ca>

*Luminato Festival of Arts & Creativity (Jan-July 08)*

### **Curator, Local Programming: Streetscape**

- Conceived and directed acclaimed 'LivingSpace' at Regent Park involving 8 weeks of both youth workshops and professional arts installations working in concert -- as well as 'Housepaint' on the site of the former tent city.
- For Regent Park workshop photos view: <http://www.them.ca/livingspace-workshops/>

*Laidlaw Foundation & Department of Canadian Heritage (Feb-July 07)*

### **Head Curator & Chair of Youth Advisory**

- Directed representative / microcosm youth arts expo including over 30 arts organizations and 145 artists.
- Co-founded CYAN (Canadian Youth Arts Network) and continued research.

*them.ca (98-05)*

### **Curator/ Co-founder**

- Installation and evaluation of hundreds of arts projects in diverse locations such as Kingston Penitentiary to the Art Gallery of Ontario.

*Ontario College of Art and Design, Student Union Executive Council (1999-2000)*

### **Events Director**

- Instrumental in several fundraiser events and planning the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OCAD.

*Counternotes Theatre (1997-1998)*

### **Head of Set Design, Construction & Carpentry "The History Making Machine"**

- Designed and built 12 person/ 30' puppets and park-sized outdoor theatrical set.

## EDUCATION

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Goldsmiths College, University of London (UK 05-06)

### MA – Creative Curating

Ryerson University (Toronto 04-05)

### Arts & Contemporary Studies

- International Golden Key Honour Society (top 15%) and awarded top mark award in “Ideas that Shape the World I”

Ryerson University, Continuing Education (Toronto, 02-04)

### Certificate – Human Resources Management

### Certificate – Interdisciplinary Studies in Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Management

Ontario College of Art & Design (Toronto 99-00)

### Certificate – Introduction to Visual Art

## BOARDS, AFFILIATIONS & VOLUNTEER WORK

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- CARFAC Ontario, Board Member	Toronto 10
- Jane’s Walk, Advisory Board	Toronto 10
- Ryerson University, “Top 30 under 30,” Selected Recipient	Toronto 09
- Martin Prosperity Institute & Culture Division, Mapping Roundtable	Toronto 09
- Emerging Leaders Network (Toronto City Summit Alliance) Member	Toronto 08
- Art Gallery of Ontario, Public Affairs Advisory, Member	Toronto 07
- CYAN, (Canadian Youth Arts Network) Co-founder, Past Chair	Toronto 07
- Mural Routes, Youth Advisory Group, Member	Toronto 07
- Goldsmiths Visual Art Department, MFA Catalogue Committee	London 06
- Celeste Art Prize, Selection & Publication Committee	London 06
- MFA Students, “Union” + “Rag & Bone,” Curatorial Consult	London 06
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich, Arts Programming Consulting	London 06
- Toronto Community Foundation, “Public Spaces Roundtable” Participant	Toronto 05
- The Foundation for the Advancement of Young Urban Artists, Co-founder	Toronto 99-05
- Ryerson University, ACS Open Night, Speaker	Toronto 05
- Ryerson University, History Faculty Chair Search Committee	Toronto 05
- Bridges for Youth, “Art as a Tool to Engage Youth-at-risk” Speaker	Toronto 04
- Style in Progress, Advisor and Cash Sales	Toronto 03-05
- Remote Area Medical, Nepal Trip, Support Staff	Manang 04
- Canterbury H.S. “Star Returns Exhibition,” Work Donation	Ottawa 04
- War Child Canada, M-16, Work Donation and Co-Curator	Toronto 03
- City of Toronto, “Culture Plan for the Creative City,” Participant/Presenter	Toronto 03
- Central Tech High School, Mural Art Lesson, Artist Coordination	Toronto 02
- Toronto Rehabilitation Foundation Gala, Artist Coordination	Toronto 02
- OCAD Beaux Arts Ball Society, (re)Founding / Core Member	Toronto 00-01
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## SUMMARY OF SKILLS AND INTERESTS

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### Artistic

- Curating
- Visual arts creation
- Project & process design
- Event coordination

### Administrative / Academic

- Participative research
- Non-profit management and design
- Strategic and tactical planning

### Clearance, DOB, Citizenship

- Enhanced Reliability Status -- RCMP / CSIS 2003
- Canadian Citizen -- DOB July 1979

### Interests

- Intercultural studies -- travel throughout 31 countries
- Advocacy and civic engagement
- Organizational analysis and institutional critique
- Teaching
- Photography

# Devon Ostrom – Quick Bio & CV

## BIOGRAPHY

Devon Ostrom holds an MA in curating from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and has graduated from programs in Non-profit as well as Human Resource management from Ryerson University. His career as an organizer started at fourteen when coordinating a street art contest at the Central Canadian Exhibition in Ottawa. From the Art Gallery of Ontario to a mural and research project at Kingston Penitentiary, he has since gone on to organize countless installations and exhibitions. His exhibition record includes the highly acclaimed Streetscape programming for Luminato 2008 at Regent Park and the Parliament St. Slip / Former Tent City. Other highlights include “Housepaint, Phase 2: Shelter” at the Royal Ontario Museum. As a community organizer Devon was a founder of them.ca (Canada’s largest organization of street artists) and serves as the Visual Arts Director of Manifesto Community Projects. Devon’s advocacy work includes founding BeautifulCity.ca – an alliance of over 60 organizations that recently defeated the world’s dominant media interests in a 29/11 council decision to put a new tax on billboards for art that is expected to generate \$10.4 million in 2011. He is also a member of the Toronto City Summit Alliance’s Emerging Leaders Network and was selected as one of Ryerson Alumni’s Top 30 Under 30.

## LECTURES AND TALKS

- Civics Education Network, Integration Program Speaker, 10
- ‘InVoice’ BeautifulCity.ca Town Hall, City Hall, Speaker / Organizer, 10
- Ontario College of Art and Design / CARFAC Ontario, Professional Dev. Series, Advocacy Lecturer, 09
- University of Toronto, OISE, Dept of Sociology / Equity Studies, Manifesto Talk / Tour, 09
- Artscape, Creative Places + Spaces: The Collaborative City, Panelist / Presenter, 09
- Toronto Community Housing, Advocacy Lecture for Frontline Workers, 09
- BeautifulCity.ca Town Hall, City Hall, Speaker / Organizer, 09
- Emerging Leaders Network / Toronto City Summit Alliance, Private View of Housepaint / Talk, 09
- University of Toronto, MA Museum Studies, Guest Lecturer, 09
- Royal Ontario Museum, Institute for Contemporary Culture, ‘Talking Street Art,’ Presenter, 09
- ELN / Toronto City Summit Alliance, ‘BCBF’ Presenter, 09
- LuminaTO, ‘Illuminations Speakers Series,’ Panelist, 08
- Ryerson University, ACS Open Night, Speaker, 04
- Bridges for Youth, “Art as a Tool to Engage Youth-at-risk” Speaker, 04

## BOARDS, AFFILIATIONS AND ROUNDTABLES

- CARFAC Ontario, Board Member, 10
- Jane’s Walk, Advisory Board, 10
- Martin Prosperity Institute & Culture Division, Mapping Roundtable, 09
- Ryerson University, ‘Top 30 under 30,’ Selected Recipient, 09
- Emerging Leaders Network (Toronto City Summit Alliance) Member, 08
- Art Gallery of Ontario, Public Affairs Advisory, Member, 07-09
- Governor General’s Urban Arts Forum Ottawa and Toronto Attendee, 07
- CYAN, (Canadian Youth Arts Network) Co-founder, Past Chair, 07
- Goldsmiths Visual Art Department, MFA Catalogue Committee, 06
- Celeste Art Prize, Selection & Publication Committee, 06
- Toronto Community Foundation, “Public Spaces Roundtable” Participant, 05
- Ryerson University, History Faculty Chair Search Committee, 05
- City of Toronto, Culture Plan for the Creative City, Participant/Presenter, 01

## CONSULTING AND COLLABORATIVE CURATORIAL WORK (2006-2008)

- Community Mapping Research, Department of Canadian Heritage, 08
- "Satoyama Storehouse," V Reiss Gallery, 07
- Rebranding, Swerhun Inc, 07
- "Union" MFA Goldsmiths Students, Participant, 06
- "Rag & Bone," MFA Goldsmiths Students, Installation Assistance, 06
- "Elixir Arts," Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich, 06

## KEY EXHIBITIONS (1998-2009)

- "Chapter 3 – three floor art expo" 52 McCaul, Manifesto Festival of Culture and Community, Sept-Oct 2009
  - "Windows to..." Art Gallery of Ontario, Nuit Blanche, October 2009
  - "Toronto Artmap" City Hall, Manifesto Festival of Culture and Community, Sept 2009
  - "Housepaint, Phase 2: Shelter," Royal Ontario Museum, Dec-July, 2009
  - "Us and Them," Well and Good Art Space, Toronto, October 19th-30<sup>th</sup>, 2008
  - "Housepaint" former Tent City, Luminato Streetscape, Toronto June 12-15, 2008
  - "LivingSpace" Regent Park, Luminato Streetscape, Toronto June 12-15, 2008
  - "Ignite: Youth Arts Expo," Gladstone Hotel, Head Curator, Toronto June 12-13th 2007
  - "Manifesto: Foundations" Whippersnapper, Co-visual Arts Director, Mentor, September 2007
  - "Ignite: Youth Arts Expo," Gladstone Hotel, Head Curator, Toronto June 12-13th 2007
  - "3rd Annual them.ca Xmas Group Show," Tangerine, Toronto, Dec. 17th, 2004
  - "H.Y.P.E. 3," AGO, (Helping Young People Excel) Toronto, Sept. 28-Oct 14th 2003
  - "The Cause," Toronto City Hall & AGO, Aug. 2003
  - "M16" War Child Canada, Toronto, Montreal & Ottawa Tour, 2003
  - "Visual Funk," 160 Spadina & The 360, Toronto, May 19th, 2002
  - "H.Y.P.E. 2," AGO, Toronto, Feb 9, 2002
  - "T.H.E.M. X-Mas II," One Sixty, Dec. 15 to 23, 2002;
  - "The Cause," Toronto City Hall & AGO, Sept. 2002
  - "T.H.E.M. X-Mas", One Sixty, Dec. 15 to 21, 2001
  - "Decked," AGO (Co-curated w. Raja Dutta) Toronto, Sept. 16 2000
  - "Activation," Art System, OCADSU, Toronto, Sept. 7th, 2000
  - "Victory," Art System, OCADSU, Toronto, June 2000
  - "H.Y.P.E." AGO, Toronto, Dec. 5 2000
  - "World Electronic Music Festival," Main stage design, 1999
  - "Om 2," Sumkidz, Main stage design, 1999
  - "CounterNotes Theatre," Arts Court, Ottawa, 1998
  - "CounterNotes Theatre," Ottawa City Hall, 1998
- [truncated...]

## PUBLISHED WORKS

- "LivingSpace" Luminato Edition, Catch Da Flava (festival program by Regent Park Focus) Spring 2008
- "Postgraduate Fine Arts Catalogue," Section Coordinator / Co-designer, Goldsmiths London UK, 2006
- "Celeste Art Prize 2006," Co-writer, London UK, 2006
- "Vandalism vs. Art: is the semantic difference in the eye of the beholder?" Vandalism vs. Art: "Spacing" 2006
- "A Feast for the Eyes," (w. Dr. Jean Folsom) *Let's Talk, Correction Service of Canada* Vol 29, No.2 2004
- "From Nepal with Love," *Bite magazine*, may 2004
- "Dixon," *Wegway magazine*, July. 2003
- "Art vs. Ads," (w. Liam Thurston) *Fuse Magazine*, v.25 no.2 May 2002

## **MEDIA WORK / WORK FEATURED / FEATURES**

- Michael Wheeler, "This is what it looks like when you win," *Praxis*, April 16, 2010
  - Natalie Alcoba, "City to study increase in arts funding" *National Post*, Thursday, April 08, 2010
  - Paul Moloney, "Artists left starving for billboard bucks" *Toronto Star*, April 07, 2010
  - Kelly Grant, "Budget chief wants revenue from new billboard tax to support the arts" *Globe and Mail*, April 07, 2010
  - Shahina Sayani, "Billboard tax should go to the arts" *My City / The Star*, April 07, 2010
  - David Nickel, "Mayoral politics played out as committee discusses budget," *Inside Toronto*, April 7 2010
  - Michael Wheeler, "It's a huge week for arts funding in Toronto" *Praxis*, April 9, 2010
  - Adrian DiLena, "Devon Ostrom on BeautifulCity.ca" *LNBR*, Episode 8, 2010
  - Mike Smith, The Battle Over Beautification, *Now Magazine*, March 4,
  - Staff Writer, 'Sign Bylaw Revenue,' *NRU - City of Toronto Edition*, Feb. 12, 2010
  - Melissa Leong, "Taking Back the City," *National Post*, Dec 26, 2009
  - Allison Martell, "Idea #1 Tax Ads to Fund Public Art," *The Tyee*, Dec 21 2009
  - Staff, "Top 40 Media Stories that Defined 2009" *Mondoville*, Dec 20, 2009
  - Anna Mehler Papery, "Toronto Passes Sweeping New Billboard Rules," *Globe and Mail*, Dec 8, 2009
  - Bryn Weese, "The writing's on the wall" *Sun Media* Dec. 8 2009
  - E Matteo, "Building better billboards: A huge city-wide coalition beats back illegal billboards," *Now Magazine* Dec 8, 2009
  - David Nickle, "City billboards will be under one bylaw, council approves" *Inside Toronto* Dec 8, 20
  - Staff, "Toronto Billboard Tax Approved," *CBC News* Dec 7 2009
  - Jonathan Goldsbie, "City Council votes for a Beautiful City," *Spacing* Dec 7 2009
  - Torstar News Service, "City OK's billboard tax, fraction of money may go towards arts" *Metronews.ca*, Dec 8 2009
  - Web Staff, "Toronto city councillors vote to implement billboard tax" *CP24.com* Dec 7 2009
  - Maria Cortellucci, "Billboard Tax & Bylaw Passed by Toronto City Council" *BlogTO* Dec 7 2009
  - Natalie Alcoba, "City Council approves billboard tax, more user fees" *Global Toronto* December 8, 2009
  - CityNews.ca Staff, "City Council Approves Billboard Tax" *CityNews* Dec 7 2009
  - John Spears, "Toronto passes billboard tax" *Toronto Star* Dec 7 2009.
  - Mark McAllister, "Billboard Tax" *Global TV*, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Anna Mehler Papery, "Ad Men Become Mad Men," *Globe and Mail*, Nov NA, 2009
  - Enzo Di Matteo, "Sign Wars", *Now Magazine* Nov 26, 2009
  - Staff "Public Opinion" *NOVAE RES URBIS-City of Toronto Edition* - Friday, November 6, 2009
- [truncated]...
- Melita Kuburas, "Billboard tax pulled from Agenda," *Media in Canada*, May 28, 2009
  - Murry Whyte, "Evolution of a street art rebel," *Toronto Star*, May 10 , 2009
  - Hamutal Dotan, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Signs but Were Afraid to Ask" *Torontoist* May 7th 2009
  - Staff, "NOW Poll: Should billboards be taxed for public art?" *Now Magazine* May 7 2009
  - Melita Kuburas, "City of Toronto to consider billboard fee," *Media in Canada*, May 6, 2009
  - Staff Writer, "30 Second Spot: Toronto a More Beautiful City" *Globe and Mail*, May 5 2009
  - Chelsea Miya, "The Push Toward Billboard Taxes" *NOW*, May 6th 2009
  - Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler, "Town Hall on Reining in the Billboard Industry, May 5" *Spacing*, May 1st 2009
  - Alana Armstrong, "Ads for Arts Sake" *blogTO*, April 30, 2009
  - Jane Williams, "Billboard fee to fund public art" *Redeye / Rabble.ca*, April 28 2009
  - *Take 5fm*, 8:30 *Ciut 89.5fm* April, 2009
  - Matt Semansky, "Billboard tax advocates plan Toronto rally" *Marketing Magazine*, April 23 2009
  - Sally Deskins, "Arts in trouble? Try billboard tax or art loans, at least a positive attitude" *Omaha Examiner*, April 23 2009
  - Alana Armstrong, "Talking (not Tackling) Street Art at Housepaint," *BlogTO*, March 28, 2009
  - Manny Neubacher, "Housepaint" Toronto [Living] Rogers TV 2009
  - Staff Writer, "Newsfront: Spotted, Hug Me Tree," *NOW*, March 24-31 2009
  - Posterchild, "Questions and OTHER Answers, *Torontoist*, February 12 2009
  - Natasha Eloi "The Circuit" *Space Channel*, Feb. 2009

- Sheila Dabu, "Street art goes Main Street" *The Catholic Register*, 2009
- Nina Boccia, "The House Painters" *Azure Magazine*, December 17th 2008
- Erin Hatfield, "Graffiti on display at the ROM" *Inside Toronto*, December 16, 2008
- Adam McDowell, "Equal Billing" *National Post*, December 15, 2008
- Peter Goddard, "Takin' it from the streets," *Toronto Star* Dec 14, 2008
- Guy Dixon, "Street art comes indoors," *Globe and Mail*, December 13, 2008
- Astrid Poesi, "Off the Streets, Into the ROM" *24 Hours* (Cover) Dec 12, 2008
- 'Street art exhibition at Royal Ontario Museum looks at poverty, homelessness' *Canadian Press*, Dec. 8th 2008
- [truncated]...
- "Off The Wall," *Toronto Life*, August 2008
- "Dan Bergeron Documents the Residents of Regent Park," *Wooster Collective*, June 5, 2008
- David Topping, "Board of Regents," *Torontoist*, July 2, 2008
- Bruce Demara, "Taking it to the Streets," *the Toronto Star*, June 11, 2008
- Guy Dixon, "Reclaiming Regent Park with Monster Art," *Globe and Mail*, May 31, 2008
- Robin Christmas, "Streetscape at Regent Park," *The National, CBC Television*, June 7th 2008
- Rebecca Tucker, "the Making Of" *National Post*, May 2008
- Here & Now, CBC Radio, November 16th, 2007
- Laura Mendes, "New Proposed Tax could turn Billboards into Art," *blogTo*, November 13th, 2007
- "2007 Almanac of Political Art," *B+B Projects*, London UK 2007
- Jesse Kohl, "the Lowdown on the Billboard Tax," *Media in Canada*, May 22, 2007
- Placentile, M. and M. Vykoukal (eds). "Casazine #4 "Drawing the Line". Cultural Analysis Summer Academy (Amsterdam) and Peacock Visual Arts (Aberdeen) 2007
- *Take 5fm*, 8:30 Ciut 89.5fm June 4th, 2007
- *Bill Carroll morning show* 8:40 1010 CFRB, May 15th, 2007
- David Meslin, "Not so Fast on Billboard Tax," *NOW Magazine*, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- "International Youth Week + bcbf" *Catch da Flava Radio / ckl88.1fm*, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007
- Staff writer, "bcbf" *Public Art Review*, vol. 17 no.1 fall-winter 2005
- Anne Marie Aikins, "Beautiful City Billboard Campaign looks for Municipal Support" *Novae Res Urbis*, aug.12 2005
- Matt Blackett, "beautiful city billboard fee." *Spacing Wire*, July 18th, 2005
- Matt Semansky "Freedom on the Inside" *the Eyeopener*, Nov. 16 2004
- Staff Writer "hip hop hooray," *Ryersonian*, Sept. 2003
- Ryan Bigge, "Graffiti inc." *Lola Magazine*, spring 2003
- Rob Moody, "What a Spray," *Kingston Wigg Standard*, June 3 2003
- Michelle Sheppard, "Graffiti: the artful dodger's tag," March 15, *Toronto Star*, 2003
- Gloria Galloway, "Art & Vandalism: Graffiti," *Globe & Mail*, Jan. 2003
- "Art vs. Vandalism," *Street Cents* Part 1 & 2, *CBC*, Sept 2002
- "Funk raiser," *CityTV*, May 24th 2002
- Carly Z, "Let the big guys pay," *Eye Magazine*, April 2002
- Christian Pearce, "That's t.h.e.m," *Pound Magazine*. February/March 2002
- Staff Writer, "Bird items to benefit art gallery," *Ottawa Citizen*, 1996