

ONTARIO PRESENTS Spring Retreat



Schedule for the 2025 Ontario Presents Spring Retreat!

Location: Living Water Resorts and Bear Estate
Living Water Resort – Guest Rooms – 9 Harbour Street East, Collingwood
Bear Estate – Function Hall – 300 Balsam Street, Collingwood
Phone: 1-705-445-6600
Website: www.livingwaterresorts.com

Monday May 26th

11:00 pm - 2:00 pm — Arrival & Registration

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm — **Diana Webley**, “Reset, Refocus, Reignite”

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm — Ask an Expert: **Serge Cassano**, Entandem (*RESOUND & SOCAN*)

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm — *Break*

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm — Ask an Expert: **Robert Baird**, President BAM!
Session on Withholding Taxes

4:30 - 5:30 pm — Indigenous Welcome Walk – **Jennifer Parker & Jillian Morris**
[Awen' Gathering Place](#) in Collingwood

6:00 pm — Cash Bar Open – “Build your own Caesar” & specialty drink available

7:00 pm — **Buffet Dinner** on the premises, provided by Ontario Presents
Farmhouse Buffet – BBQ – Themed Dinner
Come dressed in your **favorite country attire**

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm — Get your best boots ready for some **line dancing lessons!**

8:30 pm — **Game On!** Grab your favourite board game or puzzle and have some fun with your colleagues!

Tuesday May 27th

9:30 am - 10:00 am — Ice Breaker

10:00 am – 12:00 pm — "Arts Centres as Community Hubs" with **Franco Boni & Aislinn Rose**
(*The Theatre Centre, Toronto*)

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm — **Lunch** on the premises, provided by Ontario Presents

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm — **Key Topic Round Tables** (breakout groups)

4:30 pm — Cash Bar Open – “Build your own Caesar” & specialty drink available

7:00 pm — **Buffet Dinner** on the premises, provided by Ontario Presents

8:30 pm — **Roll and Conquer!** Grab your favourite board game or puzzle and have some fun with your colleagues

Book Club for those who expressed interest gather round the campfire for some good conversation

Tuesday Key Topic Round Tables Topics Include

- Programming: Taking Risks
- Programming: Nuts & Bolts
- Operations
- Marketing = Ticket Sales
- Grants, Sponsorship & Other Funding Opportunities
- Decision Making in Today's World
- Season Round Up
- How to Care for Ourselves and Others in this Business
- Navigating AI in the Performing Arts
- Future Development – Keeping it Going!

Wednesday May 28th

9:30 am - 12:00 pm — **Big Ideas Brainstorm**

Following on yesterday's roundtable discussions, we'll unearth some big ideas to address current sector concerns and discuss how we can put them into action.

12:15 pm — **Grab and Go Lunch provided by Ontario Presents – Gourmet Boxed Lunch to Go!**

Monday's Speakers



Diana Webley is a seasoned cultural producer and wellness guide, whose journey through the vibrant worlds of international arts, mentorship, and community engagement has led her to create spaces of healing and transformation. With roots in independent event production, Diana quickly gained a reputation for curating magnetic, large-scale experiences. Studies in Arts Management and Project Management laid the foundation for a flourishing career at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

But it was Diana's global encounters—traveling to festivals, forging international connections, and witnessing the deep emotional resonance of the arts—that planted the seed for Diana Good Find. She recognized a universal thread: people everywhere are navigating stress, change, and being their authentic selves. She began to see that the same self-expression and cultural storytelling she championed in the arts could also be a tool for finding your inner purpose.

A dedicated mentor and Festival Director, Diana has always valued space-making—for creativity, conversation, and connection.



Serge Cassano has built a career spanning more than 20 years in the Canadian music industry, beginning at the **Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency (CMRRA)**, where he gained foundational experience in music rights and licensing. In 2007, he joined **Re:Sound Music Licensing Company** as a Senior Representative and Manager in the Licensing department, working directly with businesses to ensure compliance with public performance rights.

In 2019, Serge transitioned to Entandem, a joint venture between **SOCAN** and **Re:Sound**, where he currently serves as Industry Partnership Lead. He collaborates with associations, municipalities, corporations, and other industry stakeholders across Canada on simplifying the licensing process and promoting the ethical use of music in public and commercial spaces.

Serge brings a strong understanding of the relationship between music and business, and is a passionate advocate for the value music adds to organizations and communities nationwide.



Robert Baird is President of **BAM! Baird Artists Management Consulting** in Toronto, and an acknowledged expert in international touring including visas, withholding and taxation. For many years, Mr. Baird ran a booking agency in Toronto, Canada with an international roster of performing artists in musical theatre, instrumentalists, vocal artists and performing groups in all genres. He is former President of NAPAMA (North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents), and served on the Executive Board as VP of Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO). Mr. Baird is Past- President of OAPN (Ohio Arts Professionals Network), served as APAP (Association of Performing Arts Professionals) Showcase Coordinator and serves as Board Treasurer of The King's Singer's Global Foundation. Mr. Baird is an A.F.M. Booking Agent and an Acceptance Agent for the I.R.S. He is well-known for his columns on "Crossing Borders" in International Musician and IFEA's "ie".

Tuesday's Speakers



Aislinn Rose was appointed General and Artistic Director of The Theatre Centre in May 2019, having joined the organization in 2014 as the General Manager, later becoming Creative Producer in 2017. Prior to The Theatre Centre, Aislinn had developed a reputation as a skilled creative producer and theatre-maker working with companies across Toronto, building deep relationships with artists over long periods of time, and embedding social and political activism into her practice.

While at The Theatre Centre, she has focused on supporting and producing new work from Residency artists, and collaborating with national and international touring companies, solidifying the company's reputation as an international live arts incubator and presenter. In the wider community, Aislinn has served as a mentor through a number of community and funder programs, and is regularly sought out by venue organizations in Canada and abroad to consult on their investment in and development of public space and community hubs. Aislinn's thoughtful and purposeful leadership style has ensured stability for The Theatre Centre while delivering continued success for the company as new ideas are tested and implemented.



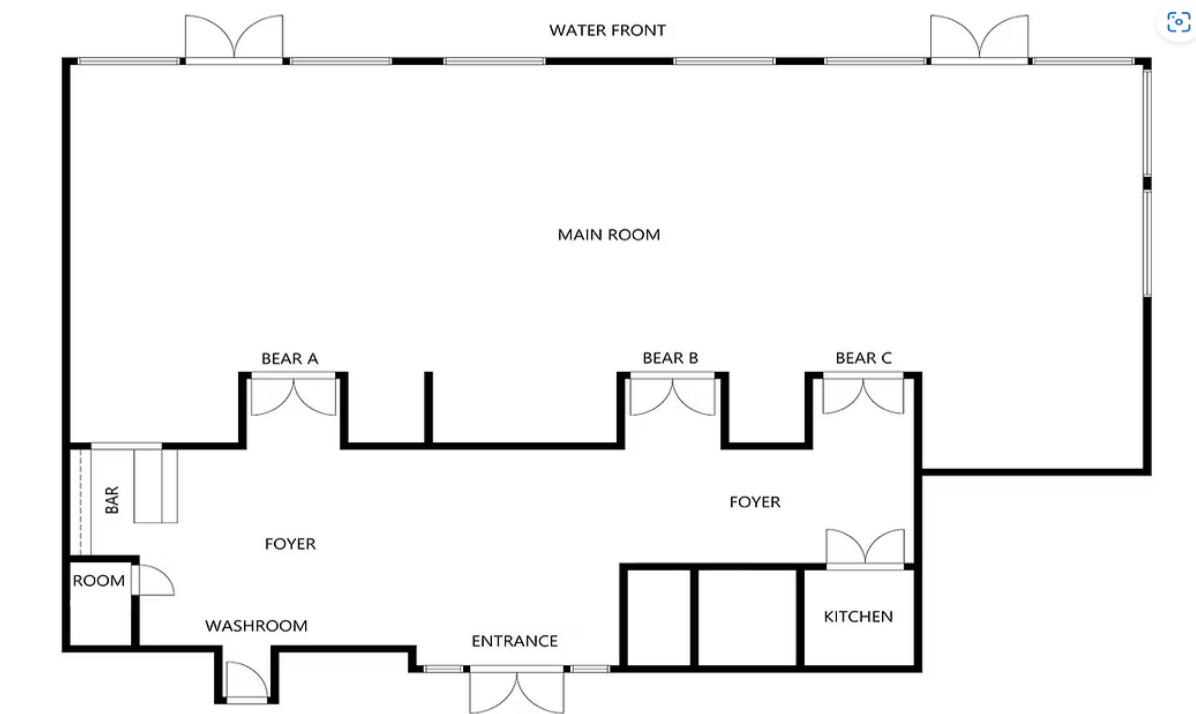
Franco Boni cherishes his role as facilitator, producer, director, dramaturg, programmer and cheerleader of artists making new work. He has served as artistic director of several theatres & festivals and has been a member of the professional arts community for over 25 years.

He co-created Residency @ The Theatre Centre, a new work development program for multi-disciplinary artists. Residency artists have included: Ravi Jain, Sarah Stanley, Susanna Hood, Jani Lauzon, Heidi Strauss, Hannah Moscovitch, Maev Beatty, Andrew Penner, Yvonne Ng, Darren O'Donnell, Stephen O'Connell, Andrew Kushnir, Ross Manson, Suvendrini Lena, Ian Kamau, Richard Lee, Byron Abalos, Colin Doyle, Dan Watson, Jess Dobkin, and many others.

Awards include the inaugural Ken McDougall Award for emerging directors, The George Luscombe Mentorship Award in Theatre, multiple Dora Awards & nominations, and the Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award, recognizing his outstanding leadership in the development of arts and culture in the City of Toronto.

Meeting Rooms at the Resort

All sessions, meals and networking will take place in the beautiful [Bear Estate Building](#). We have included a map below. We will be able to enjoy the scenic panoramic views of the Georgian Bay and give thanks for the beauty of all things nature has to offer!



What's Next?

- Join us at [Ontario Presents' 37th Annual General Meeting](#) on **June 17th at 1pm (virtual)**
- Participate in the [Virtual Networking Series!](#) Agent pitches will take place Sept 15 – 28, and artist showcases will be Oct 7 – 9. The deadline for artist applications to showcase is June 9th.

Thank You!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for attending this year's Ontario Presents Annual Spring Retreat and we continue to appreciate your support. We will be sending you a short survey after the conference is finished to get your feedback on how we did. We hope you enjoy yourself, meet some new contacts and learn a few new things!

Ontario Presents acknowledges the support of the Ontario Arts Council, the Department of Canadian Heritage and Canada Council for the Arts.



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