

## **Fact Sheet**

Established in 1977 by philanthropists Murray and Marvelle Koffler, the Koffler Gallery was created as a leading edge, contemporary arts organization. Following its success and expansion, the Gallery is now a central aspect to the Koffler Centre of the Arts which is renowned for its record of groundbreaking exhibitions of Canadian contemporary art and interdisciplinary programs in film, literary, music, dance, theatre, and current political, social, and human rights issues as viewed through the lens of arts and culture.

Rich with an extensive array of programs, the Koffler Schools of music, dance and visual arts teach children and adults with over 65 classes offered year round. The Koffler also serves public and private school students and their teachers through Koffler Gallery exhibition tours and workshops and reaches thousands in Toronto's cultural community through lectures, concerts, off-site exhibitions, and literary programs.

The Koffler is both a presenter and generator of new cultural expression and among the most respected and closely watched institutions of its kind in North America. It examines the arts across disciplines and cultures in ways that strengthen identity and community while nurturing an appreciation of difference.

Koffler Centre of the Arts is currently located in the Prosserman Jewish Community Centre's Donald Gales Family Pavilion, a brand new building on Sherman Campus. The Gales Pavilion will be its temporary home for the next four years, as construction begins on the new Koffler Centre of the Arts. The Koffler, along with the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to which it is an agency, is embarking on a dynamic vision to create a 40,000 square foot state of the art facility which will meet the needs of future generations and the ever changing aspects of the arts. Part of the Tomorrow Campaign, the largest not-for-profit building project in Canada, this new building will be situated in its present location on the newly re-named Sherman Campus.

The Board of Directors is chaired by Tiana Koffler Boyman. Lori Starr is Executive Director. Starr is former Senior Vice President and Museum Director, Skirball Cultural Centre (2001-2006) and former Director of Public Affairs and Communications, The J. Paul Getty Museum and J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles (1986-2001). Lori also serves as Vice President for Culture, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and is leading a project to create Canada's first Jewish museum.

Fundraising to support the Koffler's diverse programs is achieved through several charitable events and galas. In 2009, Artful Dish and The Wrecking Ball were the catalysts to support expansion of programs and reach new audience members and patrons.

### **Funding is directed to:**

- Educating youth, supplementing the Ontario Educational Curriculum
- Educating adults, enhancing arts appreciation
- Creating new opportunities for outstanding international & Canadian exhibitions and Cultural Performances
- Highlighting contemporary Jewish culture
- Building community awareness and understanding
- Inspiring cultural dialogue