

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harbourfront Centre re-sets its sights for *Nordic Bridges* in 2022, as Canada gets ready to host the Nordic Cultural Initiative

Year-long multidisciplinary arts program will explore contemporary Nordic culture from coast to coast to coast

Toronto, ON (June 25, 2020) – Canada will become the next host country of the Nordic Cultural Initiative, aimed at raising the profile of Nordic culture abroad and strengthening the interaction between Nordic cultural sectors and the rest of the world. Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, one of Canada’s leading contemporary multidisciplinary arts and cultural centres, was announced to lead the programming for *Nordic Bridges* to curate a series of unique experiences that highlight contemporary Nordic arts and culture across Canada. Initially slated for 2021, *Nordic Bridges* will be presented in 2022, in light of the current global health crisis.

“We anticipate that our programming partners, both at home and abroad, will be focusing on re-building and recovery from the impacts of the pandemic, including the implementation of new protocols and standards around travel and gathering audiences safely,” said Harbourfront Centre CEO Marah Braye. “Harbourfront Centre has had to adapt to current realities along with everyone else, and we are optimistic that Canadian arts and cultural establishments will be in a stronger position by 2022 to once again welcome international artists and guests. We are very excited about *Nordic Bridges* and the opportunity to generate dialogue between Canada and our Nordic neighbours.”

Taking place January through December 2022, the national festival will highlight contemporary Nordic art and culture in a range of disciplines from performing arts, visual and digital arts, craft and design, literature, film and culinary arts in cities across Canada including Toronto, St. John’s, Vancouver and Iqaluit. Through collaborations between artists, leaders and thinkers, programming will build on shared values of creativity, innovation, inclusivity and sustainability between Canada and the Nordic region – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.

Canada was announced as the host country for the Nordic Cultural Initiative in May 2019, selected from among 23 other proposals from around the world to present the esteemed festival. *Nordic Bridges* will follow the success of *Nordic Cool* (Kennedy Center, Washington DC 2013), and *Nordic Matters* (Southbank Centre, London, UK 2017).

“*Nordic Bridges* will be a hub for Nordic culture and build bridges between the Nordic Region and Canada. For this to work at its best, people need to be able to come together to enjoy the art and culture on offer without restrictions. Consequently, we have decided to postpone this Nordic cultural initiative until 2022. We’re really looking forward to the development of *Nordic Bridges* into a unique opportunity for Nordic artists to engage with their art throughout Canada in a rewarding collaboration between Nordic and Canadian cultural practitioners,” said Joy Mogensen, Denmark’s Minister for Culture and chair of the Nordic Council of Ministers for Culture.

Over the next year, Harbourfront Centre will continue to work closely with its Nordic and Canadian partners to realize the festival, with funding support provided by the Nordic Council of Ministers for Culture. The festival promises to challenge the status quo by programming artistically innovative ideas that spark dialogue around four key pillars: artistic innovation, accessibility and inclusion, Indigenous perspectives, and resilience.

Programming for *Nordic Bridges* will be announced beginning in 2021 and throughout the year, leading up to the opening in January 2022. For more information, go to nordicbridges.ca.

About Harbourfront Centre

Harbourfront Centre is a leading international centre for contemporary arts, culture and ideas, and a registered, charitable not-for-profit cultural organization operating a 10-acre campus on Toronto's central waterfront. Harbourfront Centre provides year-round programming 52 weeks a year, seven days a week, supporting a wide range of artists and communities. We inspire audiences and visitors with a breadth of bold, ambitious and engaging experiences, and champion contemporary Canadian artists throughout their careers, presenting them alongside international artists, and fostering national and international artistic exchange between disciplines and cultures.

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