

 **OCAD U Waterfront**
130 Queens Quay E, Floor 4R

6:00PM - 10:00PM

OPENING NIGHT ARTIST EXHIBITION

DXC25 attendees are invited to engage with works by both local and international artists who are highlighting the creator's unique role in civil discourse and exploring art's unparalleled ability to reveal alternative perspectives. The Counterbalance exhibition is presented in partnership with OCAD University and the European Union.

7:15PM - 8:15PM

KEYNOTE:

**MUSA AL-GHARBI - POLARIZATION AND PERCEPTION:
RETHINKING DIVISION IN MODERN SOCIETY** LIVE STREAM

Sociologist, Author, and Stony Brook University Assistant Professor, Musa al-Gharbi, will discuss his timely new book, "We Have Never Been Woke: The Cultural Contradictions of a New Elite."

Speakers:

Musa al-Gharbi, Sociologist, Author and Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University
Nam Kiwanuka, Journalist

Presented by



9:10AM - 10:00AM

**PLENARY:
RECLAIMING PUBLIC SERVICE: A CALL TO ACTION**

UNIVERSITÉ DE L'ONTARIO FRANÇAIS LIVE STREAM

Speakers:

Olivia Chow, Mayor of Toronto (Opening Remarks)

Panel:

Taki Sarantakis, President, Canada School of Public Service
John Elvidge, City Clerk, City of Toronto
Hillary Hartley, Former CEO, United States Digital Response
Martin Regg Cohn, Toronto Star Political Columnist (Moderator)

10:15AM - 4:00PM

WORKSHOP: DEMOCRACY FUTURES

OCAD U WATERFRONT

2025 is a make-or-break year for democracy in Canada. Trust in our political institutions is crumbling, a significant amount of eligible Canadians aren't voting, and voices advocating for governments to run like corporations are getting louder. Through honest conversations, innovative scenarios, and actionable strategies, The Democracy Futures Workshop will explore how to co-create a better democracy; one that is inclusive, resilient, and ready for the next century.

10:15AM - 4:00PM

**WORKSHOP:
GENERATION BOLD: EMERGING LEADERS**

UNIVERSITÉ DE L'ONTARIO FRANÇAIS

Leadership for a New Era. This program is designed to equip changemakers and emerging leaders with the skills, confidence, and networks to drive meaningful impact in their communities and beyond. Thanks to workshop presenting sponsor, AMAPCEO.

Session 1 Speakers:

Jayde Lavoie, Community engagement and program coordination professional
Tehreem Fatima, Advocacy Manager, Fora: Network for Change
Skaidra Puodžiūnas, Director, Government Affairs (Ontario) - Council of Canadian Innovators
Wynnie Zhao, Project Manager (Community Climate Adaptation) at the UN Global Compact Network Canada (Moderator)

Session 2 Speakers:

Eunice K. Yeboah, Co-founder, Canadian Black Policy Network (Moderator)
Uche Amaechi, Strategic Advisor, Ontario Deputy Minister of Treasury Board
Selina Young, Director, Indigenous Affairs Office, City of Toronto
Aretha Phillip, Chief of Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto

Session 3 Speakers:

Ashna Ali, Leadership Development Facilitator, The Dais
Anjum Sultana, Director of Youth Leadership and Policy Advocacy, Plan International Canada

4:00PM - 4:30PM

BRINGING BIG IDEAS TO LIFE

UNIVERSITÉ DE L'ONTARIO FRANÇAIS

How do you cut through the noise and drive real policy conversation? Canada is Not For Sale™ creators Emma Cochrane and Liam Mooney share key lessons on using design to build alignment and inspire action. Combining insights from a decade in the design industry and a recent viral hat brand, they explore what it takes to make a campaign impossible to ignore.

Speakers:

Liam Mooney, Founder, Jackpine Dynamic Branding
Emma Cochrane, Principal, Jackpine Dynamic Branding

 **OCAD U WATERFRONT**
130 Queens Quay East, Floor 4R

 **Université de l'Ontario français**
9 Lower Jarvis St

Presented by



9:00AM - 9:45AM

IN CONVERSATION WITH TIMOTHY SNYDER "ON FREEDOM" AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

MAIN STAGE (AUDITORIUM) [LIVE STREAM](#)

Timothy Snyder, Chair in Modern European History, supported by the Temerty Endowment for Ukrainian Studies, at the University of Toronto, and Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University

Carol Off, Journalist and Author

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM

TIMOTHY SNYDER BOOK SIGNING

9:45AM - 9:55AM COFFEE BREAK

9:55AM - 10:50AM

PANEL A: Elections and How Polling Can Bridge Divides

MAIN STAGE (AUDITORIUM) [LIVE STREAM](#)

Shachi Kurl, President, Angus Reid Institute
Andrew Parkin, Executive Director, Environics Institute for Survey Research
Madalina Botan, European Digital Media Observatory/
Associate Professor, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)
Moderator: Lara Honrado, Columbia University SIPA

PANEL B: The Fight for Local News: Who Pays for Journalism in Canada?

ROOM B (TRS 1-147)

Eden Fineday, Publisher, IndigiNews
Lydia Miljan, Professor of Political Science, University of Windsor
Gabrielle Brassard-Lecours, Co-founder, Ricochet and Pivot
Teresa Marques, President and CEO, Rideau Hall Foundation
Moderator: Elamin Abdelmehmoud, Host, CBC's Commotion

PANEL C: Building Readiness: How Institutions Survive a Fast Changing World

ROOM C (TRS 1-149)

Charlotte Yates, President Emerita and Professor, University of Guelph
Erin Millar, CEO and Co-Founder, Indiegraf
John Vaudreuil, Wisconsin Advisory Council, Keep Our Republic
Moderator: Victoria Kuketz, Director of Corporate Engagement, Catalyst Canada



Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU)
Ted Rogers School of Management
55 Dundas Street W
7th Floor

10:50AM - 11:00AM BREAK

11:00AM - 11:55AM

PANEL A: Who's Steering the Machine? AI, Democracy and the Public Good

MAIN STAGE (AUDITORIUM) [LIVE STREAM](#)

Seher Shafiq, Global Engagement Manager, Mozilla Foundation
Neil Desai, Chair, Solace Power and ClearRisk
Hillary Hartley, Former CEO, United States Digital Response
Laura Gabor, Co-founder, Ecologicca & Founder, What in the Tech
Moderator: Vass Bednar, Executive Director, MPP in Digital Society at McMaster University

PANEL B: Ethical Leadership in Turbulent Times

ROOM B (TRS 1-147)

Cristine de Clercy, Jarislowsky Chair in Trust and Political Leadership, Professor of Political Studies at Trent University
The Hon. Lisa Raitt, P.C., Vice-Chair, Global Investment Banking, CIBC Capital Markets
Shachi Kurl, President, Angus Reid Institute
Moderator: Sanjay Ruparelia, Jarislowsky Democracy Chair and Associate Professor of Politics, Toronto Metropolitan University

PANEL C: The Future of Municipalities

ROOM C (TRS 1-149)

Sabine Matheson, Principal, StrategyCorp
Jason Thorne, Chief Planner, City of Toronto
Ariella Kimmel, Executive Director, ABC Toronto and President, Winston Wilmont
Saman Tabasinejad, Executive Director, Progress Toronto
Moderator: Leslie Woo, CEO, Civic Action

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11:55AM - 12:30PM LUNCH BREAK

12:30PM - 1:30PM

WORKSHOP: Artist-led Workshop: Algorithms & Us

ROOM B (TRS 1-147)

Moderator: Alicia Hrvatin

WORKSHOP: CanStudyUS @ DemocracyXChange: The Future in Motion – A collective showcase of systemic change

TRS 1-099

Facilitated by Jillian Gonzales, Leadership Development Assistant, the Dais

WORKSHOP: Democracy Fitness: Compromise

TRS 1-075

Sarah Yaffe, Director, MASS LBP
Emily Jin, Consultant, MASS LBP

12:30PM - 2:40PM

WORKSHOP: Depolarizing Debate on Divisive Topics: Dialogues on Residential Schools

MAIN STAGE (AUDITORIUM)

Kayona Karunakumar, Project Assistant, Circle for Democratic Solidarity
Sean Carleton, Associate Professor, History and Indigenous Studies, University of Manitoba
Ben Rowswell, Convenor of the Circle for Democratic Solidarity

WORKSHOP: Exploring Design Governance in Online Spaces

TRS 1-109

Sabhanaz Rashid Diya, Executive Director, Tech Global Institute
Renee Black, Founder and CEO, GoodBot
Lisa Schirch, Professor of Peacebuilding and Technology, University of Notre Dame

WORKSHOP: Co-Creating a Culture of Democracy

TRS 1-077

Andrew Zitcer, Director, Urban Strategy Graduate Program and Associate Professor of Arts Administration, Drexel University
Roula Said, Artist
Shannon Litzenberger, Choreographer, Director, Researcher, and Embodiment Facilitator

1:40PM - 2:40PM

WORKSHOP: Artist-led Workshop: Weaving Identity and Resistance

ROOM C (TRS 1-149)

Moderator: Ailin Dong, Multidisciplinary Artist

WORKSHOP: Democracy & Anxiety: Making Sense Through Zines

TRS 1-073

Adele Lukusa, Engagement Reporter, Newsletters and Zines, The Green Line
Yara El Murr, Managing Editor, The Green Line

WORKSHOP: Reimagining Public Education for a Democratic Future

TRS 1-119

Tiffany Kwok, Policy Analyst, the Dais
Beatrice Wayne, Research Director, Samara Centre for Democracy
Andrew Brander, Vice-President, Crestview Strategy and Board of Directors of TVO
Monica Galstyan, Vice-President, Catholic Education for the Ontario Student Trustee's Association
Annie Kidder, Executive Director, People for Education

2:40PM - 2:50PM BREAK

2:50PM - 3:45PM

PLENARY: NEW IDEAS FOR A DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY

MAIN STAGE (AUDITORIUM) LIVE STREAM

Matthew Mendelsohn, CEO, Social Capital Partners
Dan Debow, Build Canada
Claire Trottier, Chair of Patriotic Millionaires Canada
Moderator: Murad Hemmadi, Reporter, The Logic

Presented by



3:50PM - 4:50PM

PANEL A: The Future of the CBC: Public Broadcasting in a Polarized Era

MAIN STAGE (AUDITORIUM) [LIVE STREAM](#)

Marla Boltman, Executive Director, Friends of Canadian Media
Harrison Lowman, Managing Editor, The Hub
Tara Henley, Journalist and Author
Jessica Johnson, Senior Fellow, Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy at McGill University
Moderator: Jennifer Hollett, Executive Director, The Walrus

PANEL B: Arts and Culture as Democratic Engagement: Experiences from Calgary and Toronto

ROOM B (TRS 1-147)

Sarah Yaffe, Director, MASS LBP
Sara Udow, Principal, Monumental
Patti Pon, President & CEO, Calgary Arts Development
Pat Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, City of Toronto
Moderator: Kelly Wilhelm, Head, Cultural Policy Hub, OCAD University

PANEL C: Shifting Public Opinion: Building Support for Trans Rights Across Borders

ROOM C (TRS 1-149)

Bennett Jensen, Director of Legal, Egale Canada
Kymani Montgomery, Executive Director, Ten Oaks Project
Fae Johnstone, Executive Director, Society of Queer Momentum
Moderator: Sabine Matheson, Principal, StrategyCorp

5:00PM - 6:00PM

**KEYNOTE:
SING FOR DEMOCRACY: CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!**

MAIN STAGE (AUDITORIUM) [LIVE STREAM](#)

6:00PM - 6:15PM

CLOSING REMARKS: FOUNDERS ADDRESS

MAIN STAGE (AUDITORIUM) [LIVE STREAM](#)

Presented by

