

Diaspora Dialogues supports the creation and presentation of new fiction, poetry and drama that reflect the complexity of the city back to Torontonians through the eyes of its richly diverse communities. Publishing and mentoring activities, as well as a monthly multidisciplinary performance festival, help encourage the creation of a literature that is vibrant and inclusive, while bringing these works to a wide audience. Diaspora Dialogues is supported by The Maytree Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Canadian Heritage.

Diaspora Dialogues Charitable Society
170 Bloor Street West, Suite 804, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1T9
Telephone: 416 944 1101, extension 277 Facsimile: 416 944 8915
www.diasporadialogues.com



Diaspora
Dialogues

this fragile
penstroke in space
a gentle touch
on the heavy world
is a span of time
apart
a place between
here and there

— Helena Frei, from “Bloor St. Viaduct”

In 2005, Diaspora Dialogues was launched to encourage writers from diverse communities to create new work that explored Toronto as “place” in their fiction, poetry and drama. We wanted to create a literature of the city that was current and vibrant and truly reflected the people who live in it.

it was in the eyes, and through the spirit,
and spirit loved the world and was not
alien to it

Toronto

—Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, from “When We First Arrived in Toronto”

Diaspora



Dialogues

Diaspora Dialogues provides an outlet for writers and artists who are new to Canada or who are under-represented, and may not yet have found their audience and market. We provide longer-term residents of the region with an up-to-date picture of Toronto, of the city that exists as we experience it every day. And we provide an intercultural bridge to facilitate dialogue amongst residents of the city.

Diaspora Dialogues commissions new fiction, poetry and drama from the country’s best writers while finding promising new voices and placing them in mentoring programs to help develop voice and craft. Participants come from culturally diverse communities, reflecting the true face of the city. We also sponsor publishing programs to bring these writers to a wide audience through an annual book anthology as well as through established print and radio partnerships.