

In partnership with
Street**ART**Toronto

Ride & Find

A guide to Black artists and artists
of African descent featured in the
TTC's Black History Month campaign

2022

TTC supports Black artists in Toronto
#BHMxTTC



Diversity, equity, and inclusion are top priorities for the TTC, and we are proud to play a role in acknowledging and celebrating the many cultures that make up our city each and every day.

The TTC has partnered with the City of Toronto's StreetArtToronto (StART) Program to highlight unique artwork by eight Black artists from Toronto.



Ride & Find

A guide to Black artists and artists of African descent featured in the TTC's Black History Month campaign

You can use this guide to learn more

about: Leyland Adams, Jacquie Comrie, Elicser Elliott, Adrian Hayles, Leone McComas, MEDIAH, Phade, and Curtia Wright, and use it to travel to see their art in the City.

Visit **ttc.ca** to learn more about our other diversity and inclusion initiatives.

LEYLAND ADAMS



Toronto Artist Leyland Adams is a creative person of colour who has always pushed boundaries, including the boundaries of accessible art.

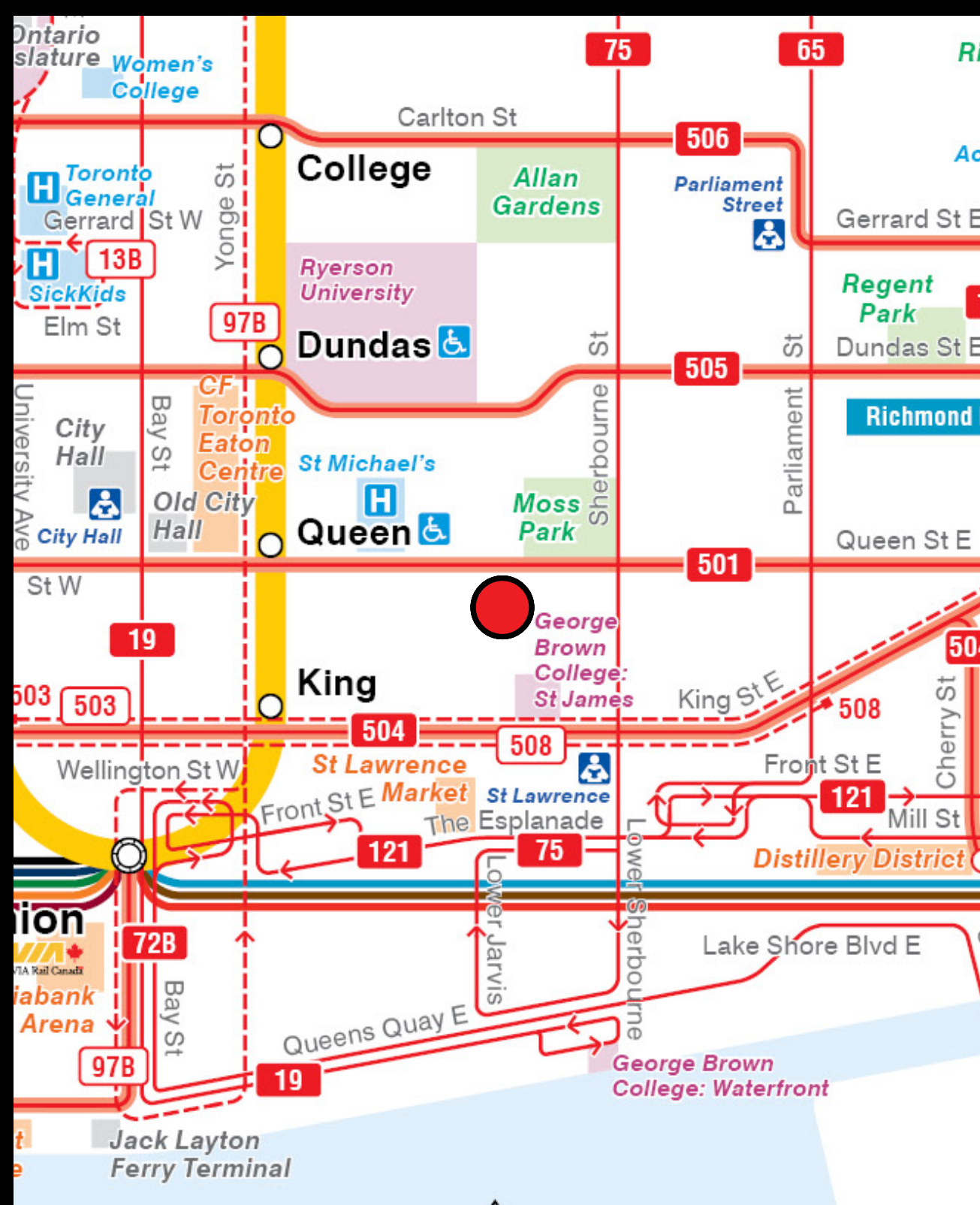
Working with the CNIB, Adams is making murals accessible for people with visual impairment, while beautifying his community. His work features high-contrast imagery, audio descriptions, and – in the case of Toronto Island Sunset (2020, commissioned by StreetARToronto) – textured imagery and QR codes with audio descriptions.

Adams is a community-based public artist who partnered with the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area to stage a public exhibit of street and graffiti artists' work in 2019. Leyland has travelled the country and across the globe to places like London and India to bring his special brand of public art to the world. In addition

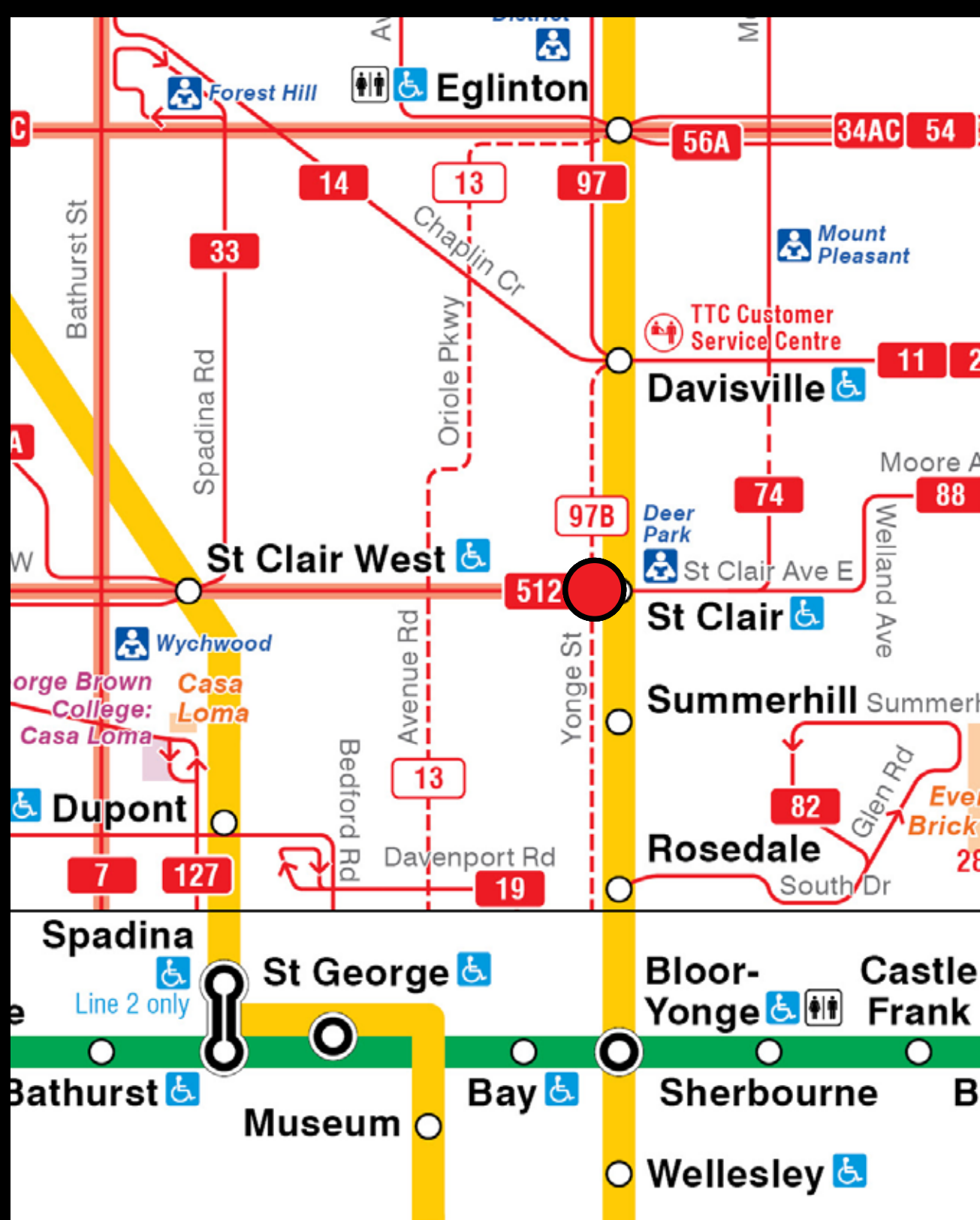
to private commissions, the Sheridan College Fine Arts graduate works as a facilitator and project coordinator for StreetARToronto on projects that enliven and beautify the city.

[@leylandadams](https://www.instagram.com/leylandadams)

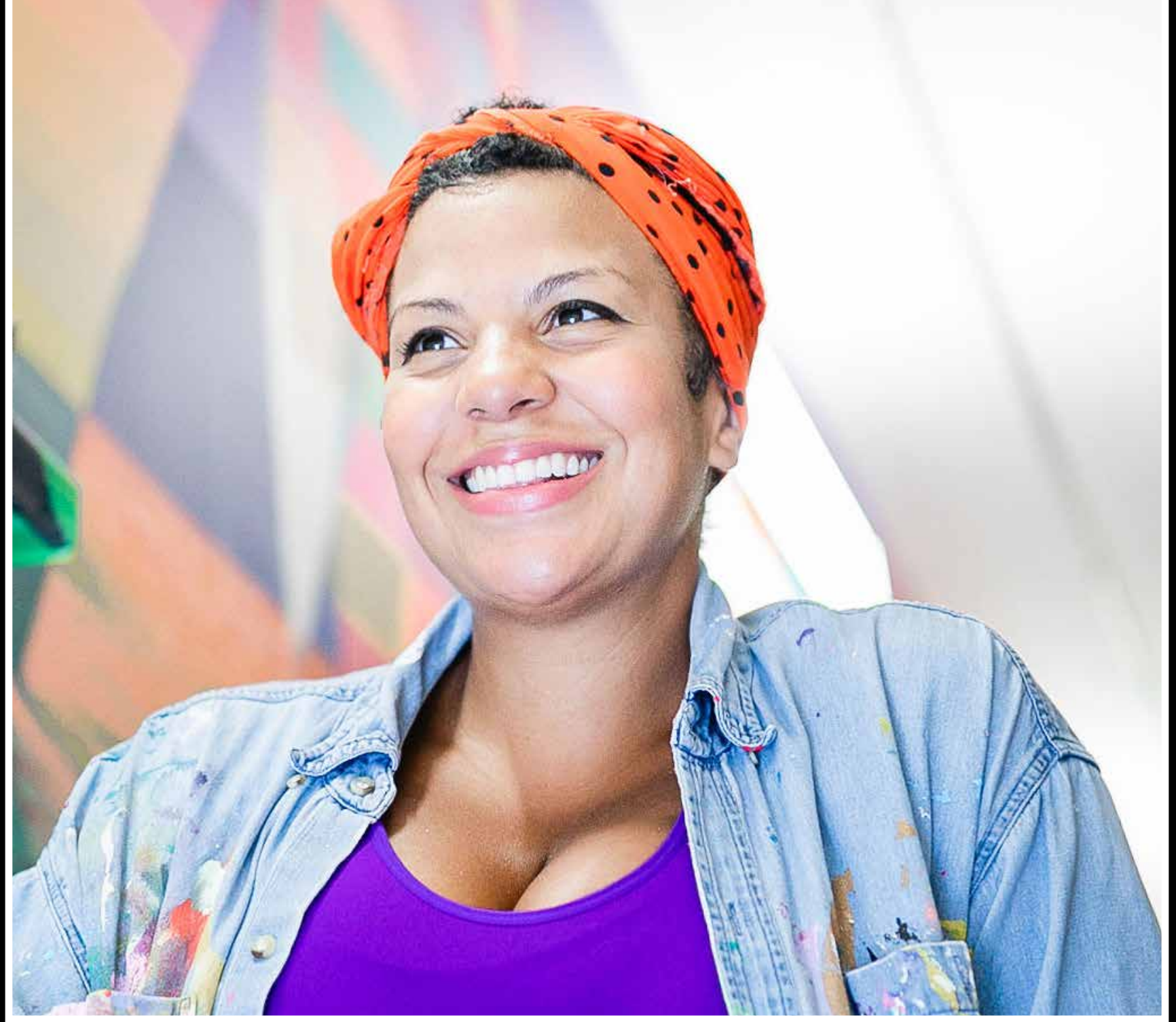
Find his “Portrait of Nelson Mandela” mural at 147 George St, east of Queen Station on Line 1



Find his “Toronto Island Sunset” mural at Yonge St and St Clair Ave, near St Clair Station on Line 1



JACQUIE COMRIE



Jacquie Comrie is a Toronto-based multimedia artist and mental health advocate.

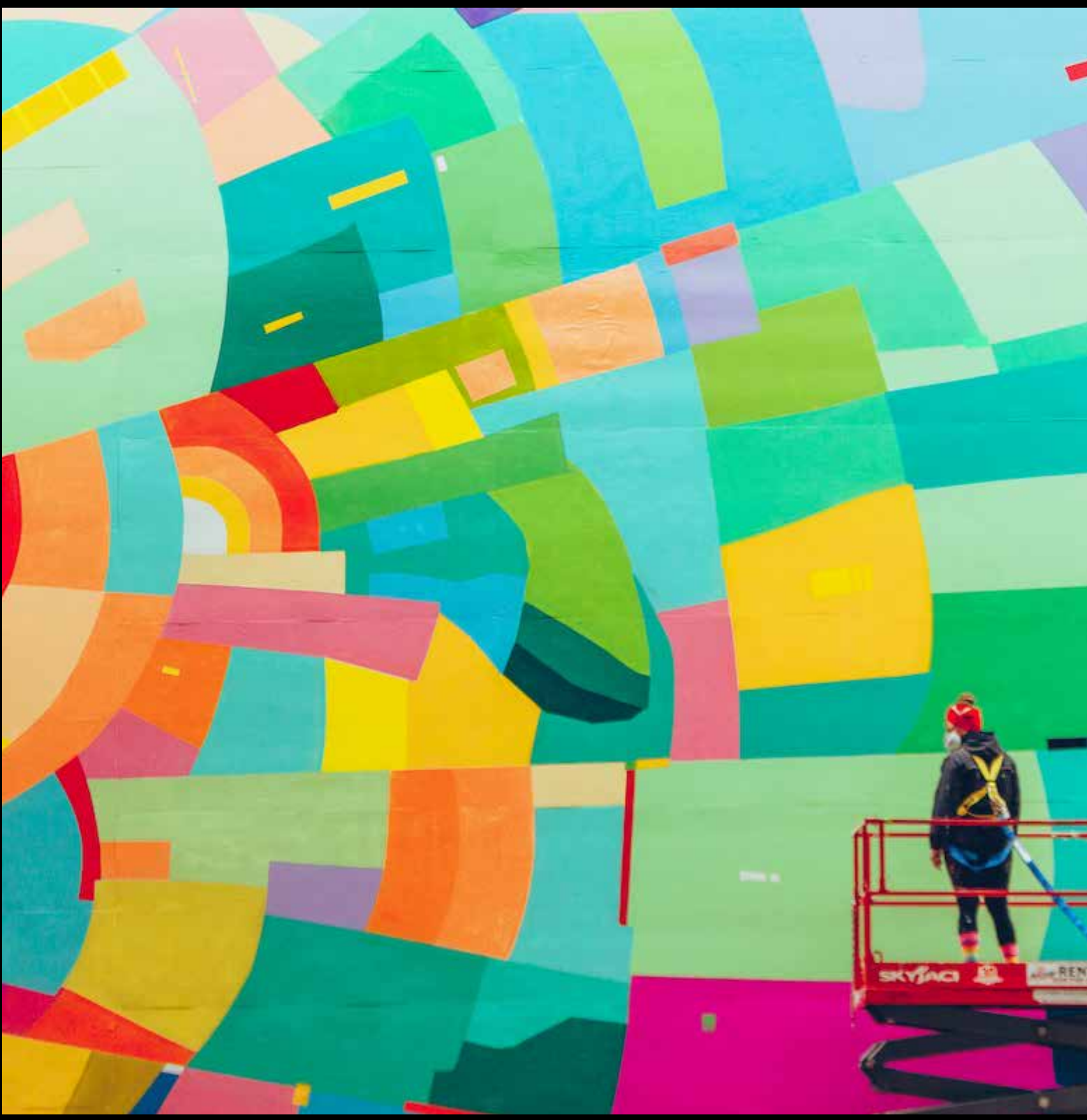
Her work stands at the intersection of art and wellness, centring colour as the universal language of emotions. Colour psychology has proven beneficial to the human body, psyche and overall well-being.

Through a range of artistic mediums, including large scale public murals and digital installations, she explores colour psychology and scale to create vibrant, chromatic public art experiences with a holistic approach.

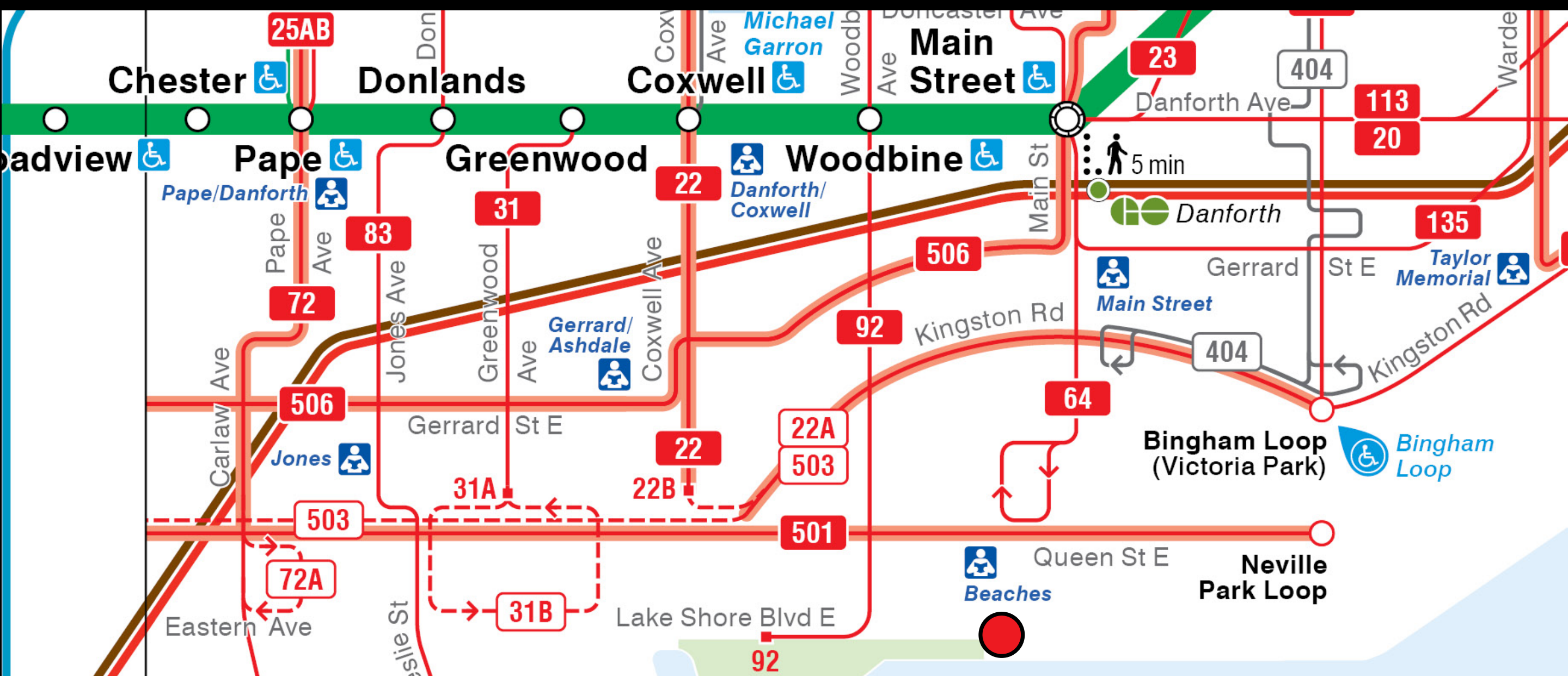
With mental health issues on the rise across the globe, especially since COVID-19, Comrie's works seek to reimagine public art, creating accessible spaces of colour therapy for everyone.

[@jacquiecomrie](#)

Find her “Birth of Light” mural at 291 Lake Shore Blvd East, near Union Station on Line 1



Find her “We All Come From Water” mural at Leuty Boathouse in the Beach, south of Main Street Station on Line 2



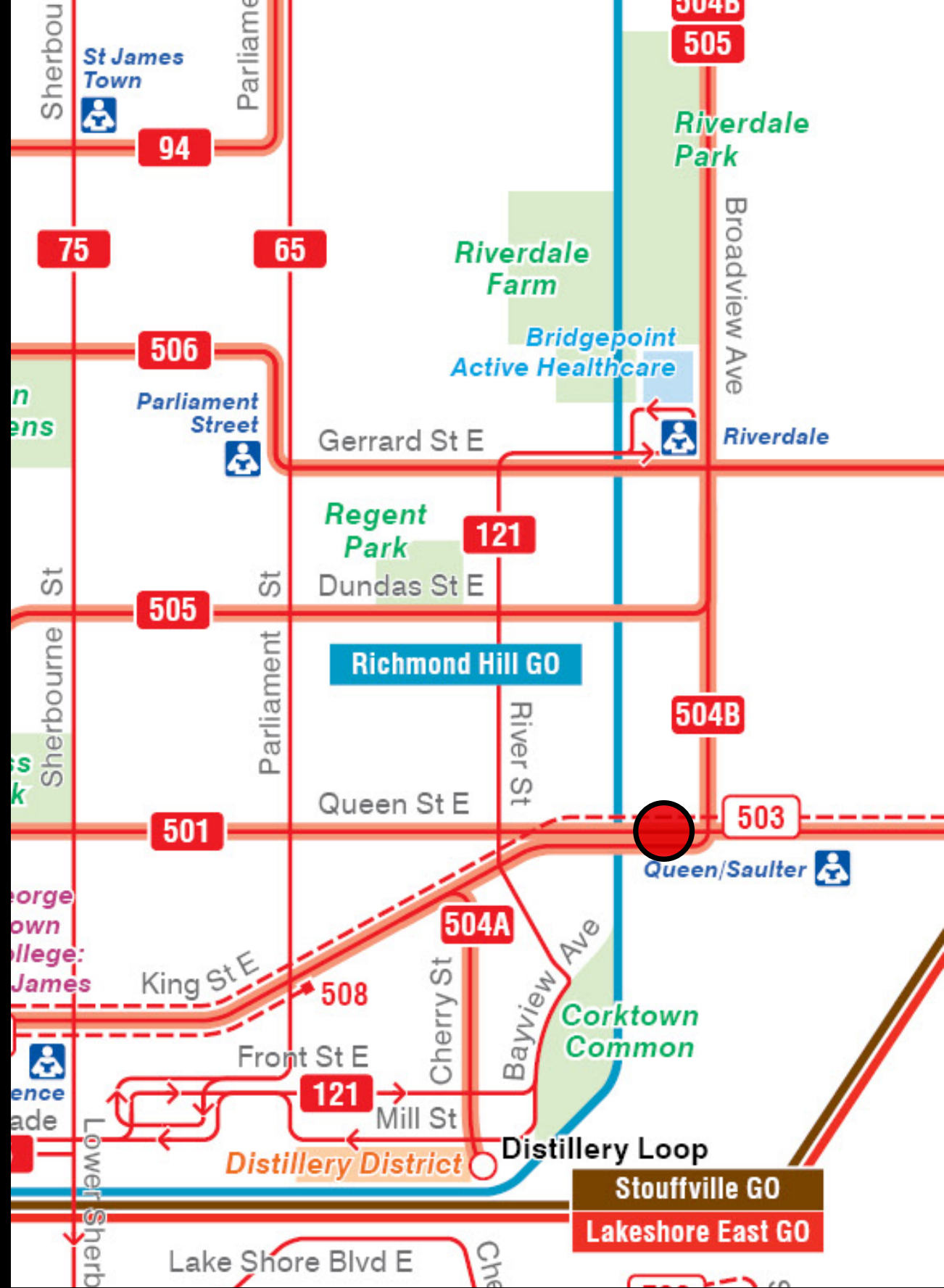
ELICSER ELLIOTT

Elicser Elliott is a Toronto based aerosol artist whose creations adorn the cultural landscape here and abroad.

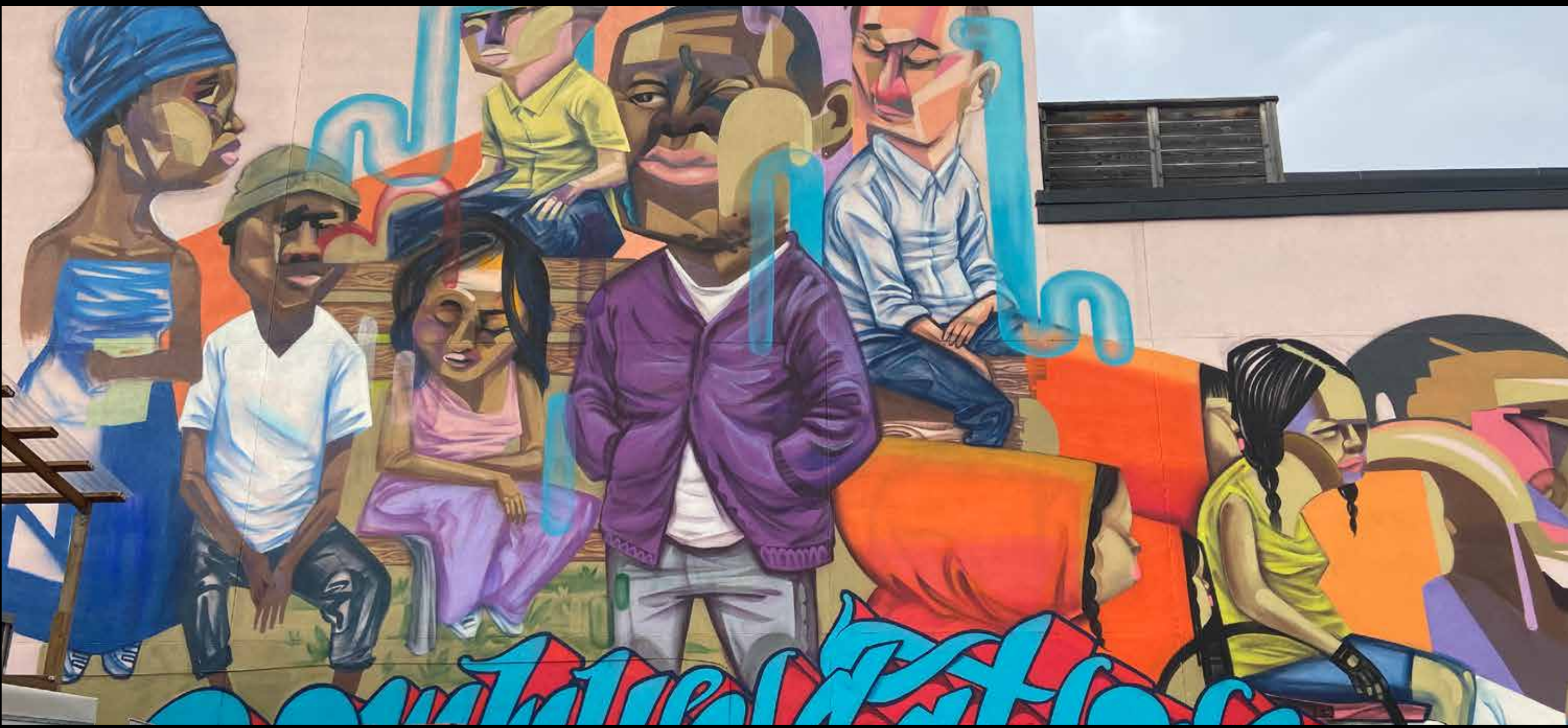
As an integral part of downtown Toronto's street art community for over 2 decades, he has been recognized for his artistry and praised by both street and fine art collectors all over the world. His work has been featured in a multitude of publications, hung in prestigious galleries like the Art Gallery of Ontario, and for a number of years he had his own installation in the Royal Ontario Museum.

Although he is a Montreal native, Elicser grew up on the West Indian island of St. Vincent, where he was first made aware of his artistic abilities. His father was the creative genius behind the country's annual festival, and he followed alongside him while he created the costumes for the event, trying to recreate the designs to the best of his ability. Eventually his family returned to Canada, where he was introduced to the world of street art while attending the Etobicoke School of the Arts. However, suffering from the influence of what he describes as the "West Indian mindset" he had not seriously considered art as a possible occupation until he had a discussion with a guidance counsellor who encouraged him to study animation at Sheridan College.

[@elicserelliott](#)



Find his “Summer Wishes” mural at 685 Queen St East, east of Queen Station on Line 1



Find his “Communication” mural at 1052 Queen St West, south of Ossington Station on Line 2



ADRIAN HAYLES



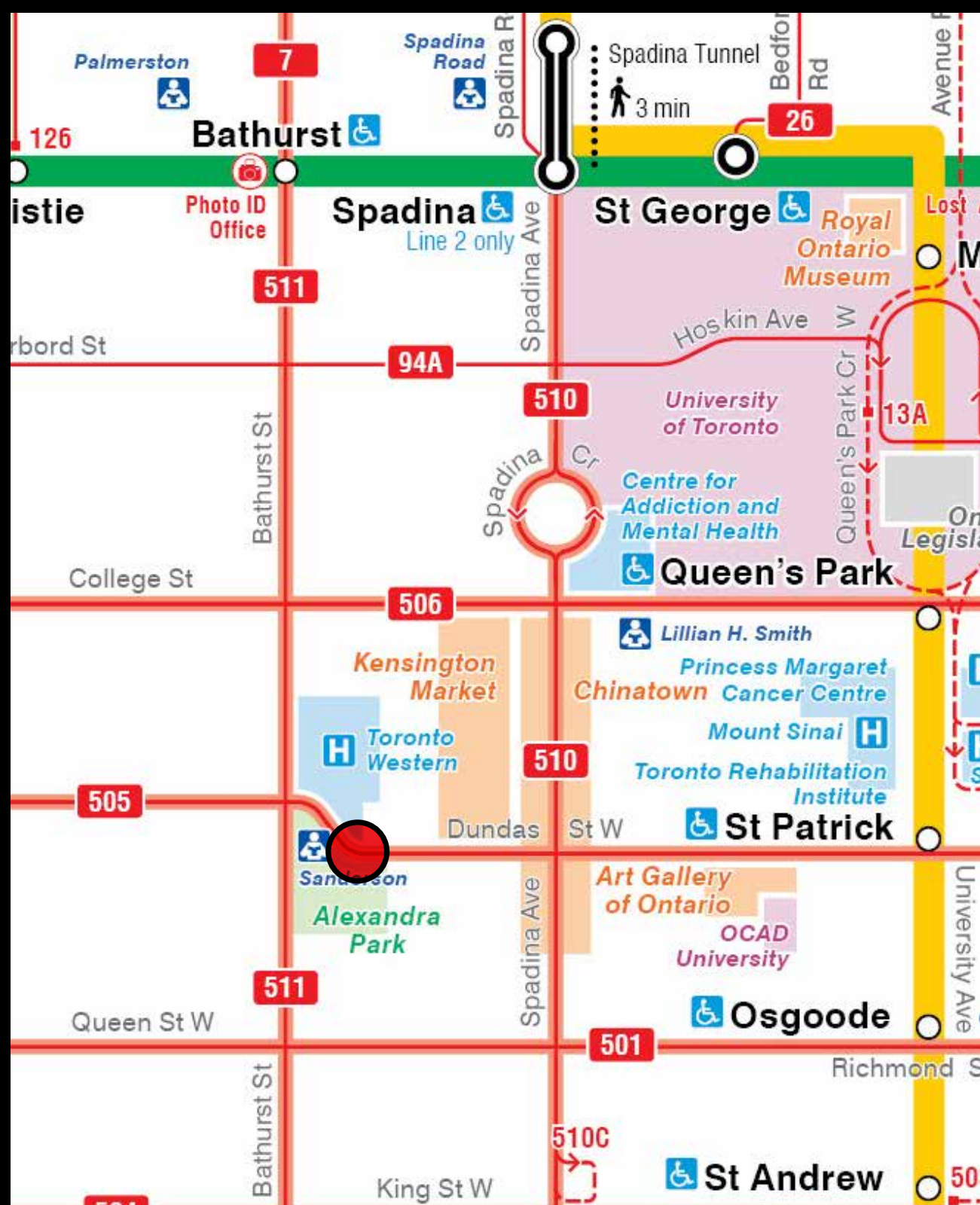
At the tender age of nine, Toronto-based illustrator Adrian Hayles discovered the expressive nature of the visual arts.

With his continued artistic development, illustration became his deepest passion and talent. His desire to learn and absorb from his surroundings led him on a personal creative journey. As a graduate of the Graphic Design Program at Humber College with over 10 years of working experience behind him, Adrian has established his place in Toronto's modern art community. His style is provocative and inspiring and defies categorization. Blurring the lines between graffiti and ultra-realism, Adrian's voice and vision is instantly identifiable. His works include countless portraits and illustrations for various magazines and collaborations with the City of Toronto to develop murals for vacant community spaces. In the past Adrian has painted complete buildings

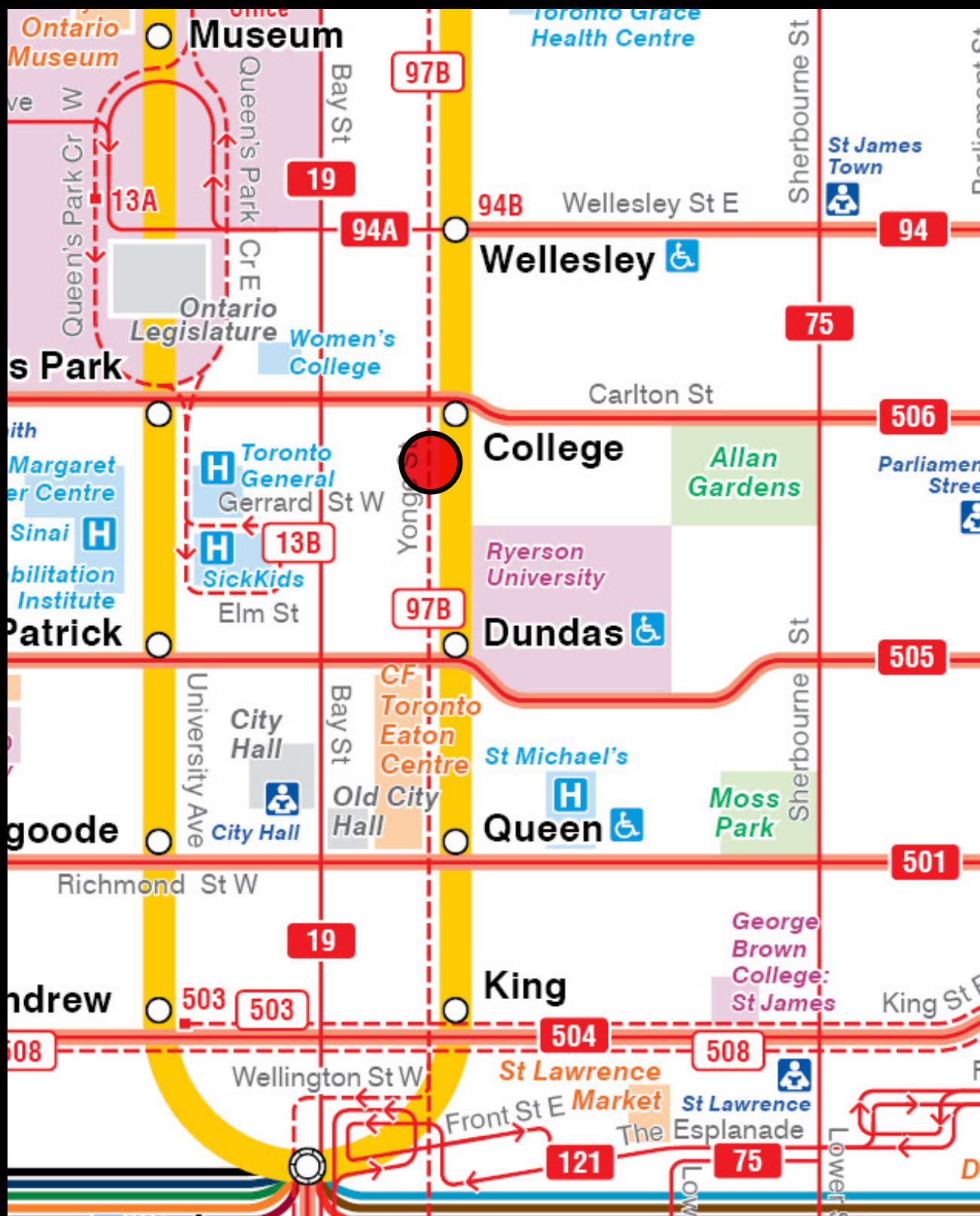
and city blocks, designed award winning video games and animated television shows. He has also successfully developed and filed a functioning patent for the Stud Horse Foldable Drawing Bench, and is the Principal and Founder of Behind the Front Visual Arts Studio.

[@adrianhayles](https://www.instagram.com/adrianhayles)

Find his “Cleanlocs” mural at 707 Dundas Street West, south of Bathurst Station on Line 2



Find his “Yonge Love Murals” mural at 423 Yonge St, near College Station on Line 1



LEONE MCCOMAS



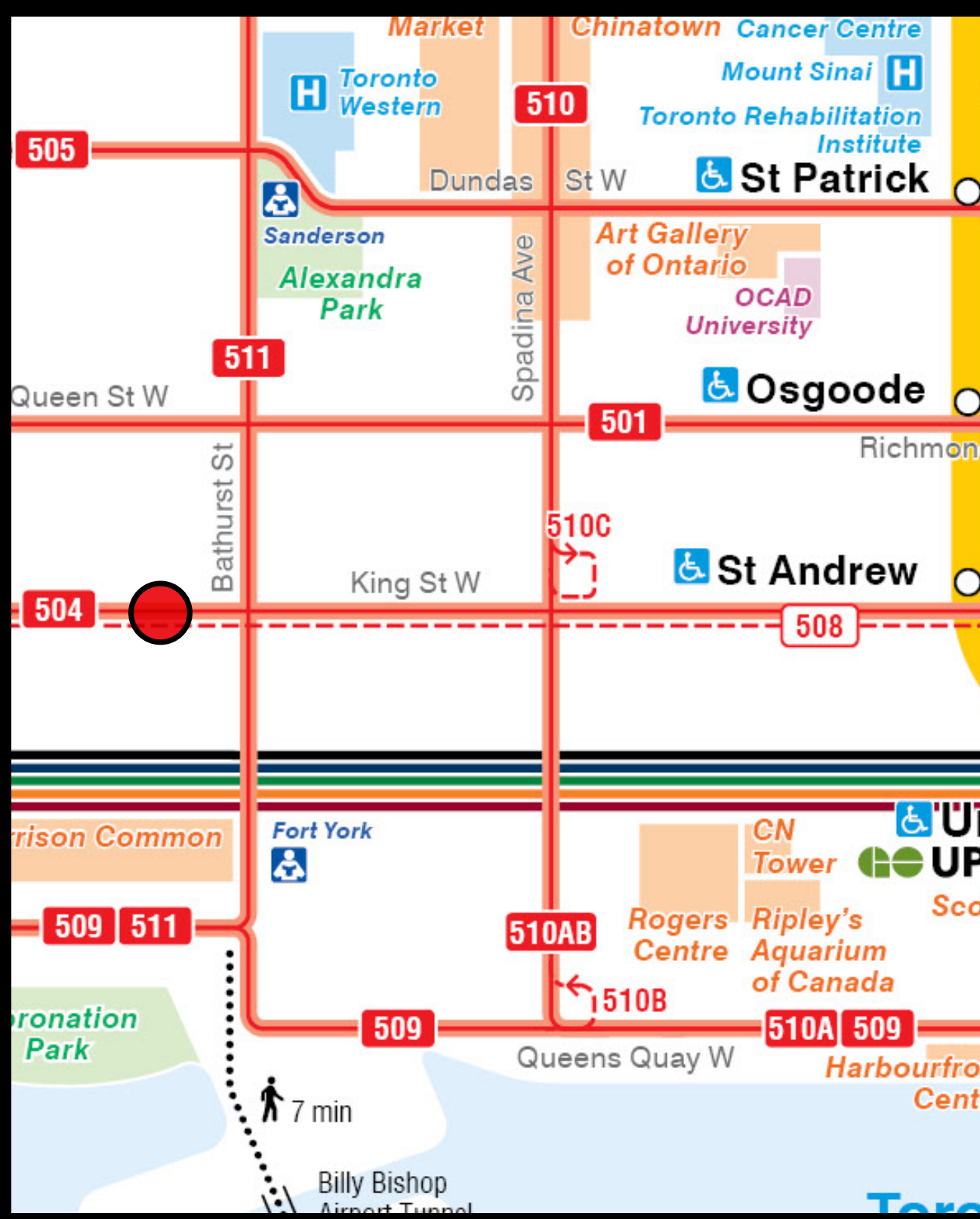
Leone McComas is a Visual Artist, Muralist, and Designer based in Toronto.

Inspired by her faith, she creates murals to uplift communities with a focus on hope and transformation; as such, her art features a heightened sense of movement and luminosity. Leone's public projects include works for StART Toronto, WomxnPaint, STEPS 'I HeART Main Street', Canderel 'St. Clair Village' with MRL™, and Canada Ireland Foundation 'Miotas/Myth'.

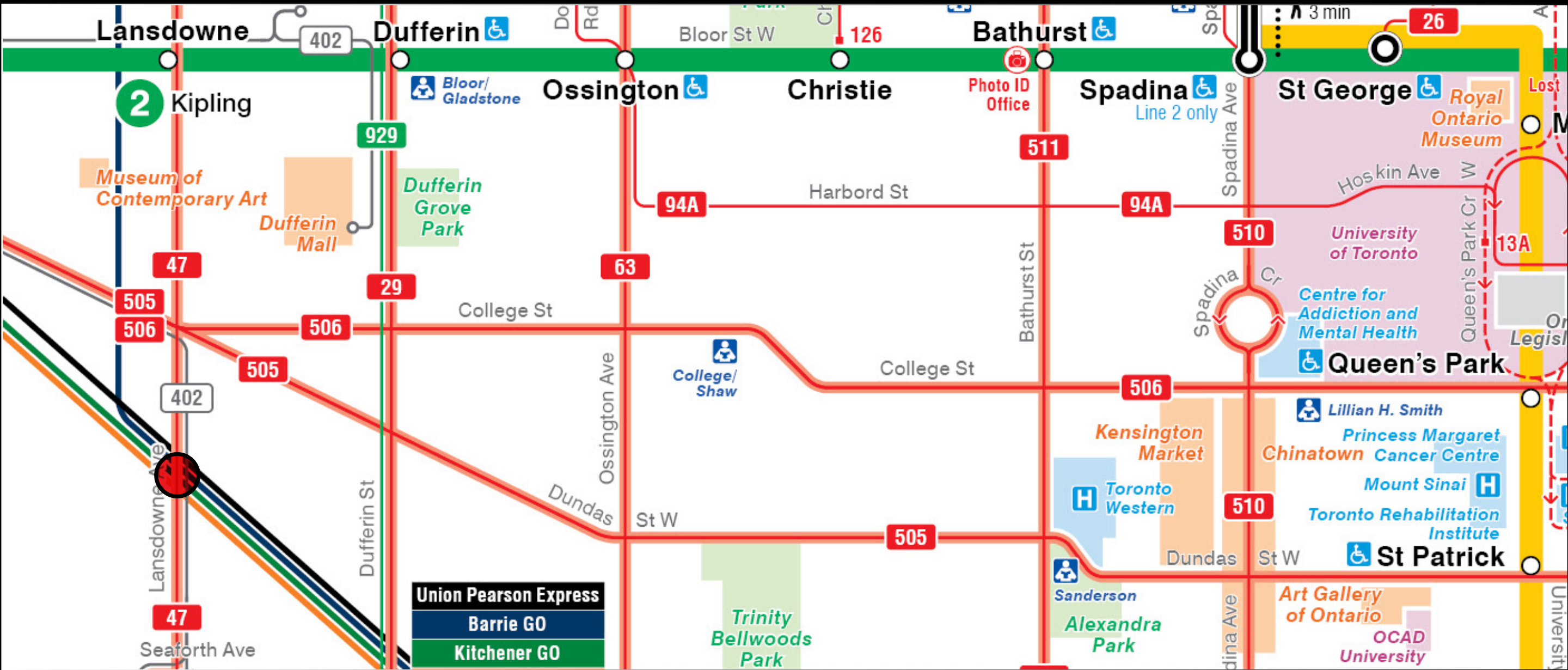
Since receiving her Bachelor of Design from OCAD University, Leone has exhibited in solo exhibitions and art fairs across Toronto, as well as internationally in Italy and South Korea. She is a recipient of the OIEOS 2010 Scholarship, OAC 2018 Visual Arts Project Grant, Mural Route's MACD, and the AKIN x MOCA residency 2018-19.

[@lehohneh](https://www.instagram.com/lehohneh)

Find her "Bloom" mural at King Street West & Tecumseth St, west of St. Andrew Station on Line 1 1



Find her "Commune" mural at the Lansdowne Underpass, south of Lansdowne Station on Line 2 2



MEDIAH



Evond Blake is a Canadian multidisciplinary visual artist who has worked under the pseudonym MEDIAH for over 25 years.

An internationally renowned visual artist, MEDIAH is a trendsetter sparking new ideas and originality by blurring the lines between post-graffiti and dynamic abstraction.

MEDIAH's work consists of weaving traditional street art forms with traditional painterly techniques and mixed media printmaking using many forms and approaches found in digital art and design. Heavily inspired by avionics, mechanical engineering and schematics, the artwork glorifies and captures the essence of speed, motion, dynamism and force to create movement on the image surface.

MEDIAH's work provides the viewer with not only this glorification of speed relating to the

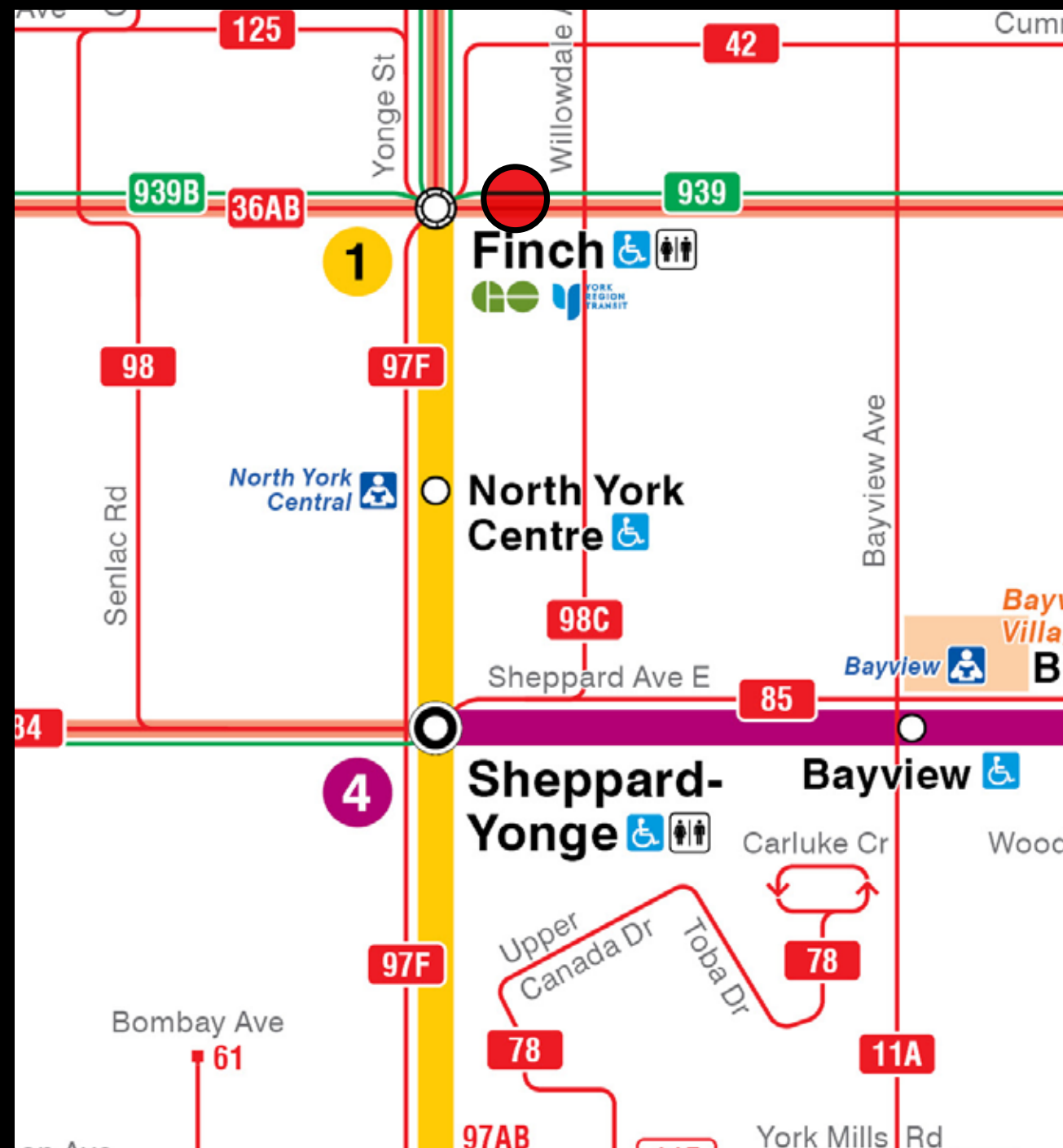
thirst for a faster and more streamlined world but also its unavoidable repercussions of collision, disaster and chaos.

MEDIAH is part of CBS – Can't Be Stopped, one of the most prolific and respected international graffiti labels based out of Los Angeles.

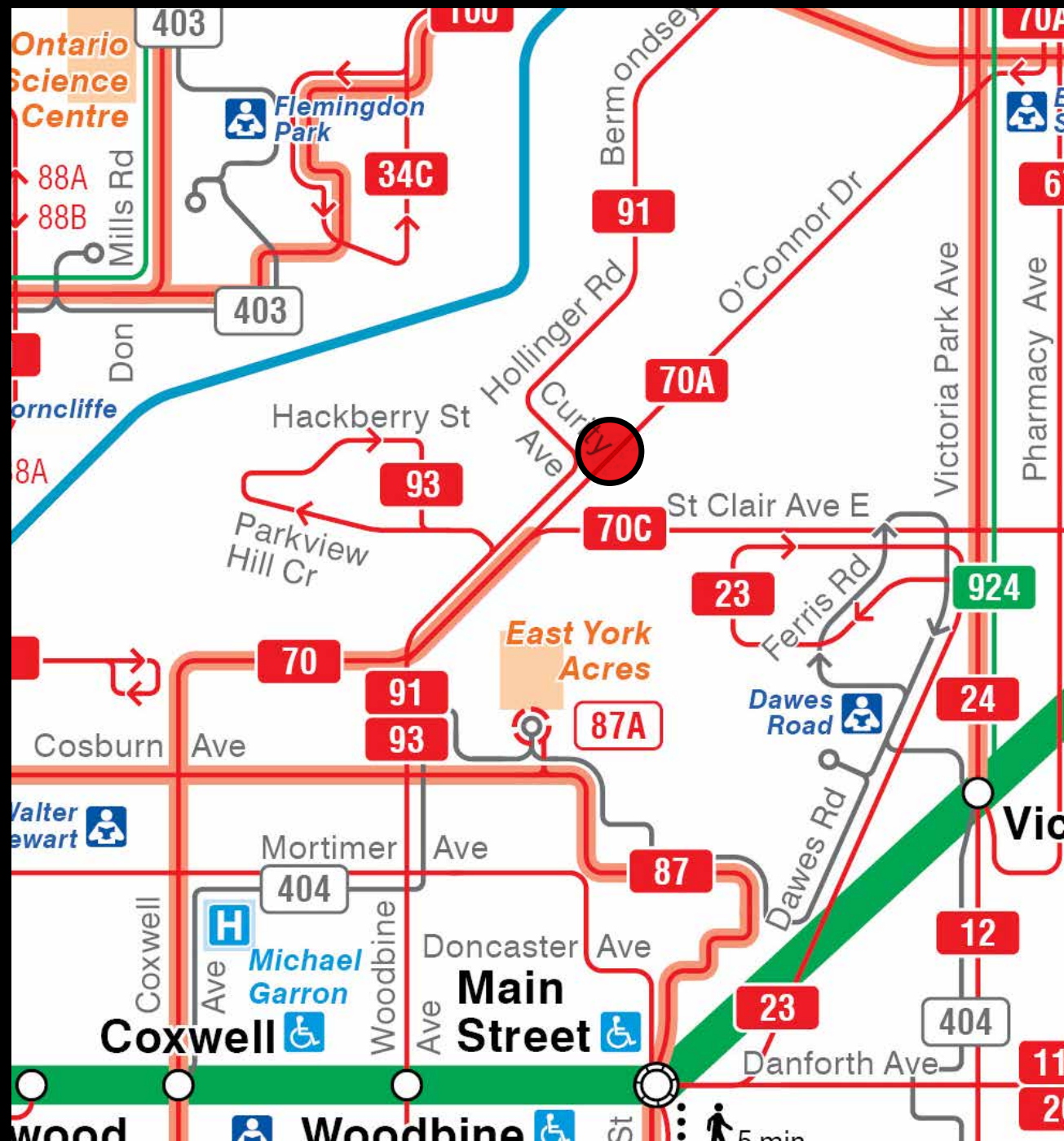
[@mediah](https://www.instagram.com/mediah)

Photos: IAH Digital

Find his “INTEROH GALE” mural at 42 Finch Ave East, near Finch Station on Line 1



Find his “LANTERN SHELL” mural at 984/986 O'Connor Drive, north of Coxwell Station on Line 2



PHADE



Jessey (Phade) Pacho is a renowned graffiti artist honoured by the Canadian government and Armed Forces for his exceptional work.

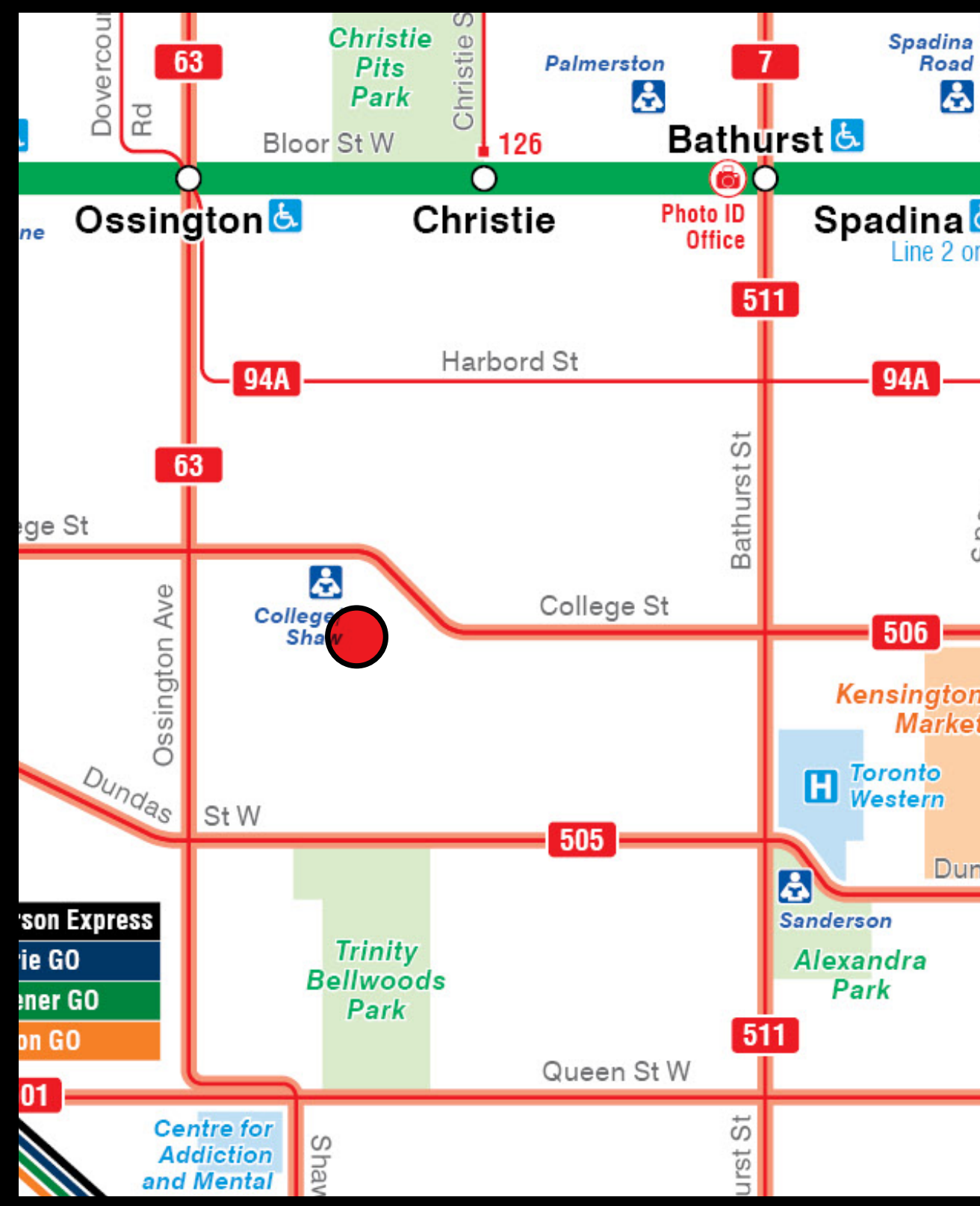
Jessey has dedicated his life to mural making, aerosol art, traditional graffiti, and shaking graffiti-related misconceptions.

Since overcoming homelessness through his craft, Jessey has positioned himself as a leader in his industry. For over ten years, he has managed multiple professional artists' teams and delivered high-impact programming across Canada. He has been internationally recognized and published nationally, most recently for #paintthecityblack. Jessey also co-founded the event #everyonevsracism at Dundas Square and, during the pandemic, started his own mural production company, Phade Creative Inc.

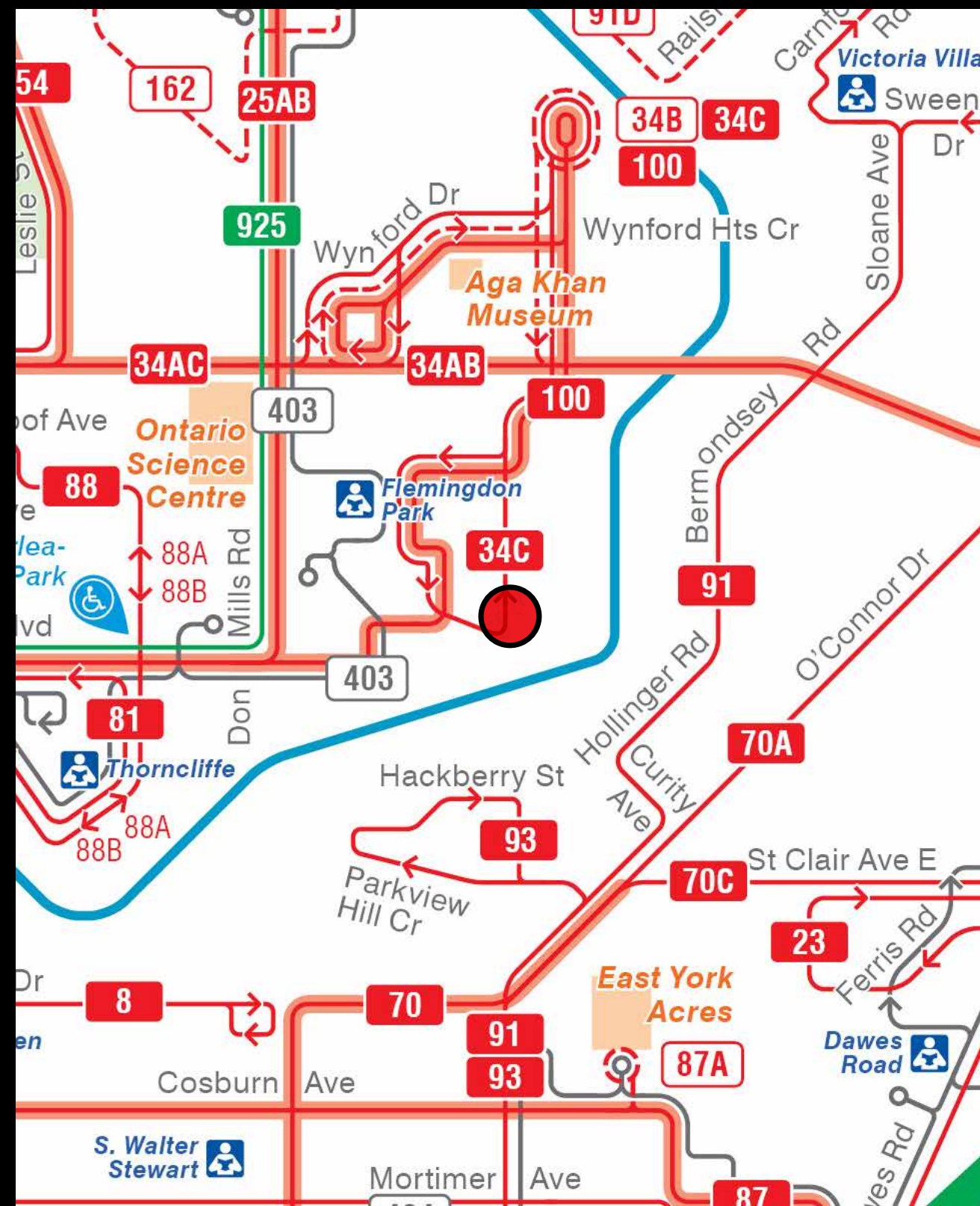
Jessey's work builds community and breathes new life into spaces that could use a boost of both color and commerce. Pursuing greater heights in his craft, Jessey remains a student to time and a humble servant of the arts.

[@artofphade](https://www.instagram.com/artofphade)

Find his "Find Your One Piece" mural at 180 Montrose Ave, south of Christie Station on Line 2



Find his "Phader" mural at 160 Grenoble Dr, east of Eglinton Station on Line 1



CURTIA WRIGHT



Curtia Wright is a multi-disciplinary fine artist, mural artist and arts educator based in Toronto, Ontario.

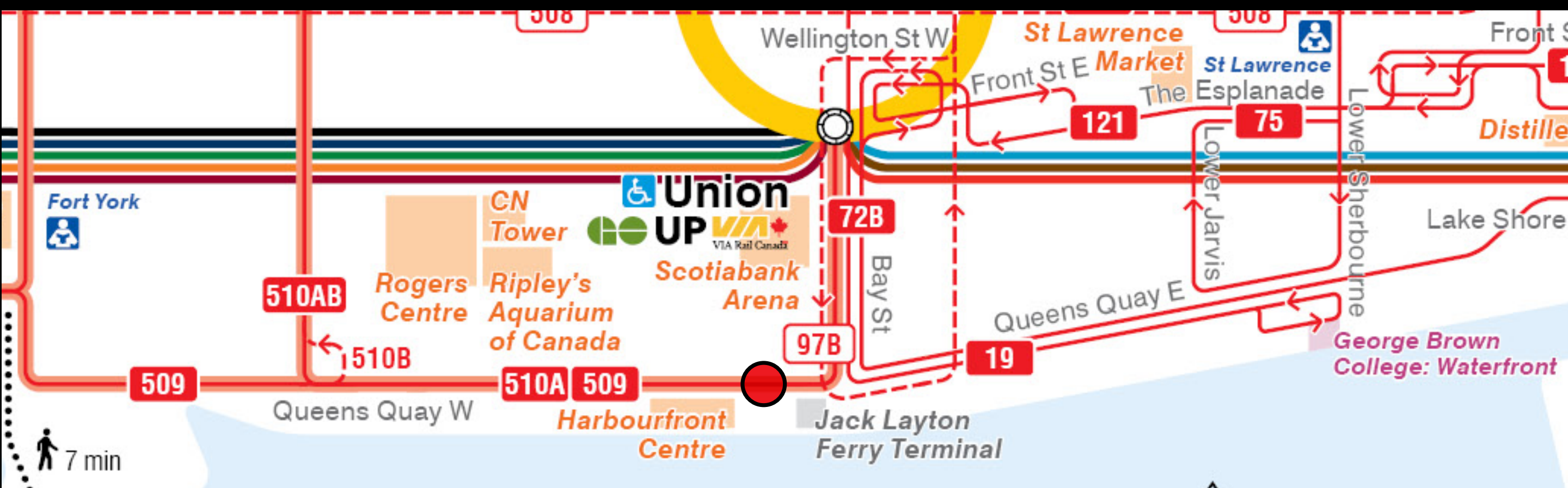
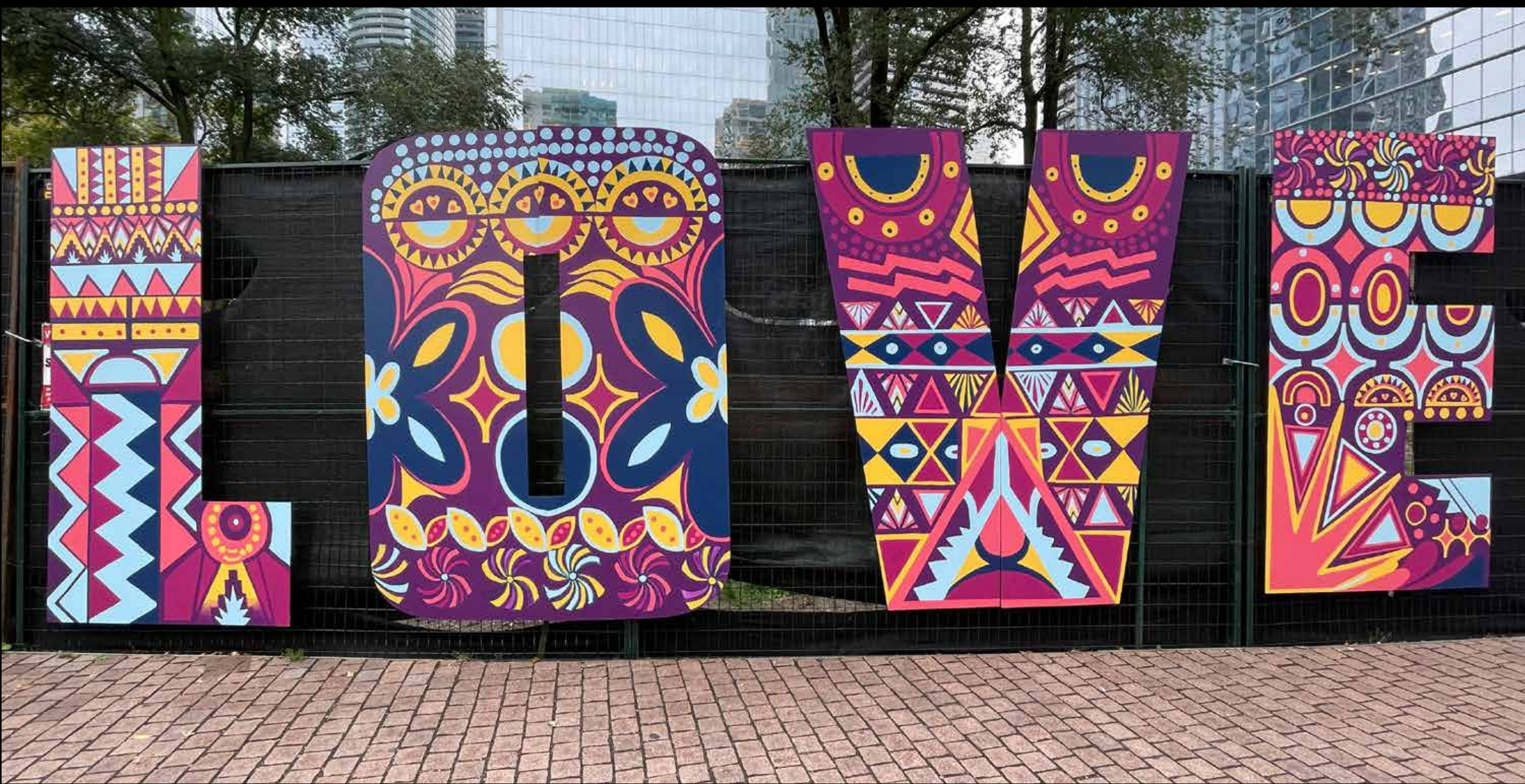
She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts at OCAD University in the Drawing and Painting Program in 2015. Her artwork re-imagines our reality using elements of fantasy and surrealism. Using bold and vibrant colour, she aims to transport audiences to her alternate worlds. Colour functions as a powerful element to create a sense of bliss within the viewer. Wright's murals commonly depict abstract figures surrounded by floral patterned elements. Her narratives focus on telling stories of Black peoples of the African diaspora, primarily speaking about her own heritage and history as a Jamaican-Canadian. She's collaborated on mural projects with community organizations and private mural commissions across the Toronto and the GTA.

[@curtia](#)

Find her “Celebrating Queer Black Lives” mural at 529 Oakwood Ave, near Eglinton West Station on Line 1



Find her “Love Park” mural at York Street and Queens Quay West, near Union Station on Line 1





BHMxTTC