



MENDING  
*broken*  
*hearts*

AN EVENING IN SUPPORT OF

DINNER DANCE

**St. Michael's  
Foundation**

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL  
PROVIDENCE HEALTHCARE

to create an endowed Chair in Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery.

02 | 14 | 2024

February 5, 2024



It is with great pleasure and pride that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Joe Vitale, Owner, and President of Italpasta, and Aldo Di Felice, President of TLN Media Group, on being honored with the 2024 CIBPA Community Leadership Award.

Their exceptional philanthropic endeavors, including the recent remarkable \$1 million pledge to the St. Michael's Hospital Foundation to establish the University of Toronto Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery (MICS), exemplify their unwavering commitment to making a profound difference in our community.

As we gather for our Valentine's Dinner & Dance themed "Mending Broken Hearts," we are reminded of the importance of coming together to support causes that touch the lives of many. Your presence and generosity this evening will contribute to our success in funding the establishment of an endowed Chair in MICS at St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto.

We also express our appreciation to St. Michael's Foundation for their invaluable partnership and commend them for their dedication to advancing medical research and patient care.

Congratulations once again to Joe Vitale and Aldo Di Felice for their well-deserved recognition. Let us all raise our glasses in celebration of their extraordinary leadership.

With Warm Regards,

Tony Cocuzzo  
President and CEO  
CIBPA Toronto







## About Us

The Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association of Toronto (CIBPA) is a non-profit member organization founded in 1952. Since then, we have earned a reputation with Greater Toronto Area communities and government for representing the interests and views of Canadians of Italian heritage.

Our mandate is to promote and cultivate the business, professional, cultural and social interests of our members, and to serve as their local voice, as well as representing the Italian-Canadian community at large. We build and foster forums for the exchange of business and civic ideas and to encourage the growth of close-knit communities. Our organization provides much more than the simple practice of networking or exchanging business cards. We create events and opportunities to build sustainable professional relationships.

And, as our way of giving back to the community and investing in future generations, we provide bursaries and scholarships to students in need through our dedicated education fund.



Suite 202 - 901 Lawrence Ave West Toronto, Ont M6A 1C3

[toronto.cibpa.com](http://toronto.cibpa.com)  
[toronto@cibpa.com](mailto:toronto@cibpa.com)



416-782-4445



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

February 14, 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association's Valentine's Dinner and Dance.



You have come together this evening to raise funds for the St. Michael's Hospital Foundation to support their dedication to advancing healthcare. I would like to thank everyone in attendance for their generosity.

I would also like to thank the Canadian Italian Business Professional Association for hosting this event. Your commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of your fellow citizens is admirable and is helping to build a better Canada for us all.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable evening and for every success in meeting your fundraising goal.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada





Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

February 14, 2024

### **A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD**

Warm greetings to everyone taking part in Mending Broken Hearts, the CIBPA Valentine's Dinner and Dance in support of the St. Michael's Hospital Foundation.

Ontario's hospitals are an integral part of our communities and our public health care system, and I want to commend the hardworking team who organized this fundraiser. It's an incredible opportunity for the community to come together to help enhance cardiac care for Ontarians.

Many thanks to the members of the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association and all the sponsors and attendees for your generosity. Your support will help an institution that has done so much for the health and well-being of the Greater Toronto area and beyond.

I want you to know that our government is making smart investments in hospitals across the province to ensure they're able to meet the needs of growing communities and deliver the high-quality, patient-centred care that Ontarians deserve.

Have a wonderful evening!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ford".

**Doug Ford**  
**Premier**



February 14, 2024

## ***MESSAGE FROM MAYOR FRANK SCARPITTI***

On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend a sincere welcome to everyone attending the ***Canadian Italian Business Professional Association's (CIPBA) Valentine's Dinner & Dance – "Mending Broken Hearts"***.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the CIPBA for generously hosting their upcoming annual Valentine's Day event with the theme of "Mending Broken Hearts." It is inspiring to witness an organization dedicated to fostering support for those in need, and your commitment to the well-being of our community shines through this thoughtful initiative.

Your decision to direct proceeds towards establishing an endowed chair in Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto reflects a profound dedication to advancing medical care. This visionary effort will undoubtedly make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals, offering hope and healing where it is needed most.

Furthermore, the decision to honor Joe Vitale, owner and president of Italpasta and Aldo Di Felice, President of TLN Media Group, with the 2024 Community Leadership Award is a fitting acknowledgment of their outstanding philanthropic contributions. Their generosity included a significant pledge to the hospital, which exemplifies the spirit of community leadership and sets a commendable standard for others to follow. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Mr. Vitale and Mr. Di Felice for this well-deserved recognition.

The collaborative efforts of the CIPBA, along with the support of individuals like Mr. Vitale and Mr. Di Felice, serves as a testament to the power of community and the positive change that can be achieved through collective action. We eagerly anticipate the upcoming event and look forward to witnessing the impact it will have on both St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to making our community stronger, healthier and more compassionate.

Sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti  
Mayor  








The CIBPA Education Foundation is pleased to sponsor this evening's "Mending Broken Hearts" fundraising event to establish an Endowed Chair in Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at St. Michael's Foundation. We would also like to congratulate Mr. Joe Vitale, Owner Italpasta and Aldo Di Filice, President TLM Media group on receiving the CIBPA Community Leaders award.

The CIBPA has always viewed education and community service as the road map to a better career and life in Canada. The CIBPA took on this challenge by helping with community-based fundraising for charitable causes and providing bursaries and scholarships to Canadian Italian students so they could get the head start required to prosper as Canadians. We are now well on our way to our new \$2 million target.

These bursaries and scholarships do come with strings attached. Our expectation is for these students to stay in touch with the CIBPA. As CIBPA student alumni we hope that, with personal prosperity, that they too will financially contribute to the Foundation to help a student in need. I have had the privilege of reading letters from past recipients and can assure you that we are making a difference.

Applications for 2024 bursaries are now open. If you are interested in learning more about the program or would like to contribute, please call the CIBPA Toronto office at 416 782-4445 or visit [CIBPA Toronto Chapter - Education Foundation](#)

Bob Sacco, President CIBPA Education Foundation





Consolato Generale d'Italia  
Toronto

Cari Amici,

Though unfortunately I cannot be at the event, it is a privilege to congratulate the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association, Toronto Chapter, for the initiative of organizing the Valentine's Dinner and Dance, in support of St. Michael's Hospital Foundation.

CIBPA, by mandate, is a promoter of economic cooperation as well as an incubator of innovation and start-up companies. The theme of this evening, "Mending Broken Hearts", and its objective perfectly exemplify the dedication of the Association in advancing also important social causes, in this case healthcare.

Even more meritorious is the fact that proceeds from this wonderful evening will be helping in establishing an endowed Chair in Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto.

Furthermore, I extend my warm congratulations to the recipients, for their philanthropic contributions, of the 2024 CIBPA Community Leadership Awards: Aldo Di Felice, President of TLN Media Group, and Joe Vitale, owner and President of Italtasta. I would like to commend, in particular, their significant pledge to the St. Michael's Hospital Foundation, but I want also to recognize their incredible contribution as successful entrepreneurs in advancing even further prestige and influence of the Italian-Canadian community: bravissimi Aldo e Joe, siamo tutti orgogliosi di voi!

Grazie mille CIBPA per quest'altra importante iniziativa.

**Luca Zelioli**  
**Console Generale**





## A message from the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary of CIBPA.

On behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the CIBPA , I wish to extend congratulations to Mr. Joseph Vitale, Owner and President of Ital Pasta Limited and Mr. Aldo Di Felice, President of TLN Media Group, the recipients of the 2024 CIBPA Community Leader's Award. Their continuous commitment and contributions to the community through their philanthropy, has demonstrated outstanding leadership and support. Their continued support and hard work are an inspiration for future generations to come.

We would also like to acknowledge the continuous work of Dr. Gianluigi Bisleri, cardiac surgeon, which will forge an exciting new path in health that will save the lives of patients at St. Michael's Hospital, across Canada and beyond.

# MENDING *Broken* HEARTS

FEBRUARY 14TH, 2024

6:00 PM	DOORS OPEN
6:30 PM	COCKTAIL RECEPTION
7:00 PM	INTRODUCTIONS
7:30 PM	MAIN DISH SERVED   LIVE PERFORMANCE
8:00 PM	AWARD PRESENTATION
8:30 PM	LIVE PERFORMANCE   SILENT AUCTION
9:00 PM	DANCE FLOOR   PORCHETTA STATION
11:00 PM	EVENING ENDS





# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We respectfully acknowledge that the City of Vaughan is situated in the Territory and Treaty 13 lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee. The City of Vaughan is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people today. As representatives of the people of the City of Vaughan, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.

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Endowed Chair in Minimally Invasive  
Surgery dedicated to making cardiac  
surgeries safer and recovery faster.”**



**Dr. Gianluigi Bisleri**

Director, Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery Program,  
St. Michael’s Hospital

For more information, please contact Ashley Downey, Associate VP Major and Leadership Gifts  
416 889 3426 | [DowneyA@smh.ca](mailto:DowneyA@smh.ca)

**STMICHAELSFUNDATION.COM**

A large graphic at the top of the page shows two hands, one from the left and one from the right, holding a broken heart. The heart is red and split down the middle, with a bright light shining from the crack. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

# The best way to give back is to pay forward


On behalf of KPMG in Canada, CEO and Senior Partner, Elio Luongo, and Canadian Managing Partner for Tax & Legal, Lucia Iacovelli, are proud to support St. Michael's Hospital and Dr. Gianluigi Bisleri's mission to advance MICS research and practice in Canada. This work, along with the CIBPA's commitment to it, mirrors our firm's values of "Together" and "For Better."

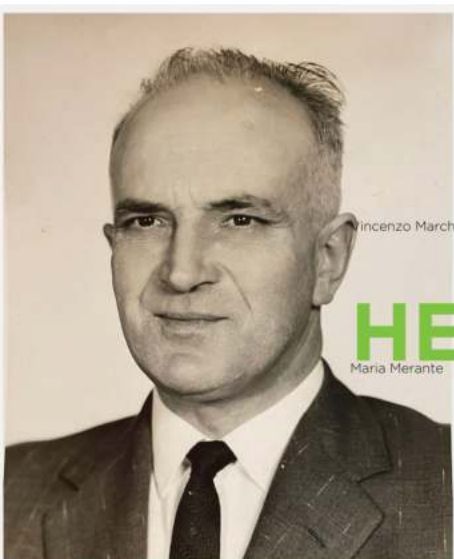
Thanks to the clear vision and steadfast dedication of people like Dr. Bisleri—along with Aldo Di Felice and Joseph Vitale, this year's CIBPA Community Leader Award recipients a stronger, more prosperous, healthier Canada *is* within our reach.

**Let's reach for it together.**



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 Villa Charities Italian Canadian Immigrant Tribute 



Vincenzo Marchese



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Giuseppe Bortolussi

Nicola & Maria Rosa Caldarone



Maria Merante



Pietro & Concetta Ciociola

Enrico & Grazia Iantorno



## **Villa Charities Italian Canadian Immigrant Tribute**

The Villa Charities Italian Canadian Immigrant Tribute project is a one-of-a-kind heritage installation to commemorate and celebrate Italian Canadians' immigrant experiences and their collective achievements.

**Honour Your Family Today**

**[VillaCharitiesImmigrantTribute.com](http://VillaCharitiesImmigrantTribute.com)**

Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave. West, Toronto | Villa Charities Foundation Charitable Registration No: 89337 0767 RR0001



**CONGRATULATIONS TO HONOUREES  
ALDO DI FELICE, PRESIDENT, TLN MEDIA GROUP & JOSEPH VITALE, PRESIDENT, ITALPASTA**



MENDING  
*broken*  
DINNER DANCE  
*hearts*



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**St. Michael's  
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congratulates  
honourees  
Aldo Di Felice &  
Joseph Vitale!

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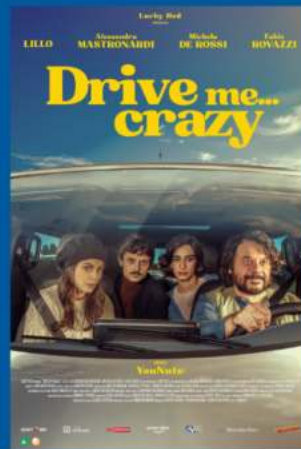
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# dinner menu



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entrée

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main course

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dessert

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**JOE VITALE**

OWNER AND PRESIDENT, ITALPASTA LIMITED

## COMMUNITY LEADER Award

Joseph Vitale's journey from post-war Italy to Canada began in 1953 when he arrived in Toronto at 15, eager to support his family's dreams. His dedication led to founding Italpasta in 1989, now the largest Canadian-owned pasta manufacturer. Beyond business success, Joe's philanthropy and multicultural initiatives, totaling over \$5 million, have made a significant impact. From co-founding Italia Alimentari Canada to supporting Telelatino Network, his contributions enrich both Canadian and Italian communities. Joe's family takes pride in his legacy of kindness and generosity, knowing he has made countless lives better.





**ALDO DI FELICE**

PRESIDENT, TLN MEDIA GROUP

## **COMMUNITY LEADER Award**

Under Aldo's leadership, TLN's commitment to public service and philanthropy has set an example for all other ethnic media companies in Canada. TLN has provided promotional support to raise millions, and has also financially contributed to dozens of community-based and international charitable organizations, raising funds for various causes – from health-related to natural disaster relief efforts to seniors and children's causes, civic improvement, and cultural projects. One of the more significant financial donations was TLN's \$500,000 support towards the \$13 million naming of the Galleria Italia at the AGO by two dozen Italian Canadian families and organizations.

Aldo Di Felice's contributions have been recognized by various groups over the years. In 2022, the Canadian EthnicMedia Association honoured Aldo for his lifetime achievement in ethnic media.

Aldo has participated in various community association and is a longstanding member of the President's Council at St. Michael's Hospital Foundation. We would also like to recognize the \$1 million donation that Aldo and Joe have committed to St. Michaels Hospital to establish a Chair at the University of Toronto for Minimally invasive Heart Surgery



**Dr. Gianluigi Bisleri**

**Director, Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital**

**Dr. Gianluigi Bisleri joined St. Michael's Hospital in 2021, and shortly there after, became the inaugural director of the Minimally-Invasive Cardiac Surgery (MICS) program, which he established.**

**A cardiac surgeon trained in minimally-invasive mitral valve repair and atrial arrhythmia surgery, Dr. Bisleri is now providing such care to patients across Ontario. In fact, he's one of the very few cardiac surgeons in the province providing minimally-invasive options to patients with advanced mitral valve disease.**

**Under Dr. Bisleri's leadership, St. Michael's Hospital is cementing its leadership in mitral valve, atrial fibrillation and other minimally-invasive heart surgeries. This past year, he and his team pioneered a number of national and world firsts: St. Michael's became the first hospital in the country to treat a patient's irregular heartbeat with a procedure carried out on top of the heart, instead of inside of it; we also treated a patient with tricuspid valve disease, with innovations never before used in Canadian hospitals.**



**We are honoured to Ron DiFrancesco share his inspirational testimonial here at Mending Broken Hearts, 9/11 survivor on whom fortune smiled twice when he was operated on by Dr. Gianluigi Bisleri using the latest minimally invasive cardiac surgery techniques he established at the hospital.**





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*Labatt*





## Antonio Cocuzzo

Canadian guitarist, composer, arranger, and educator Antonio Cocuzzo is known for his unique style that blends many diverse musical traditions. These include Jazz, Classical, Rock, and Worldly musical styles from Brazil, Argentina and Italy that amalgamate to create a memorable sound that pleases audiences.

As a guitarist, Antonio demonstrates virtuosic versatility on both electric and nylon string guitar. He is a seasoned musician with experience in the studio and on the stage. Antonio's musicianship has been described as "always in service to the music at hand and displays the mastery of contributing the right notes at the right time". (Dr. Kim Perlak, Chair of Guitar Department, Berklee College of Music)

Antonio's portfolio includes recording guitar for Film/TV, studio-session work and playing in many diverse ensemble settings which make him an adaptable and sought-after musician in the industry. His abilities sit atop a strong musical education as he has studied in the Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in performance from Berklee College of Music.

Cultivating a unique brand of nylon string guitar playing, Antonio incorporates elements of jazz and classical guitar as well as rhythms and idiosyncratic elements from the Brazilian guitar tradition. Using extended techniques such as harmonics, harp scales and creative uses for the open strings of the guitar, Antonio is blazing his own trail and developing his own voice on the instrument. His most recent projects include a dynamic rock fusion instrumental EP called "First Steps", which features his tasteful and commanding skillset on the electric guitar. In addition, his latest album called "Travels" is a contemporary Jazz/World music influenced album showcasing his ability to compose compelling music that paints beautiful sonic landscapes for listeners.



PROUD SPONSOR OF MENDING BROKEN HEARTS



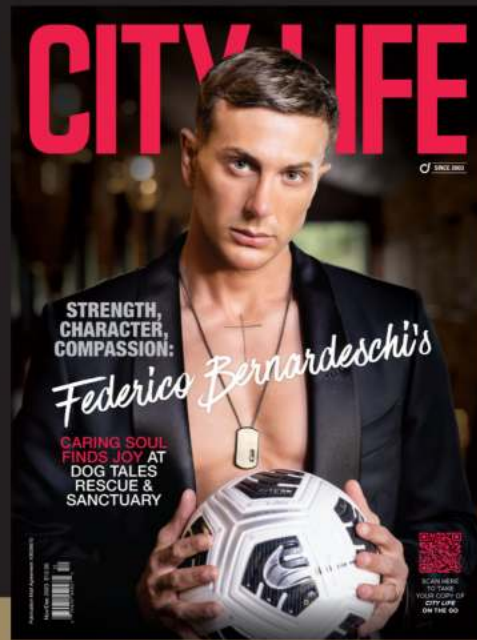
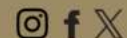
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to create an endowed Chair in Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery.



# EMPOWERING ALLIANCES



Since 1949, CIBPA has distributed over \$15 million in bursaries and scholarships to deserving students of Italian heritage at the college, university, and post-graduate levels. Additionally, our recently launched Italia360 Incubator Program actively supports students, recent graduates, and newcomers to Canada in bringing their business ideas to life. Recognizing that the future of our community is interconnected with the fortunes of those around us, we actively give back through the philanthropy and community leadership of our Ladies Auxiliary.

At its core, CIBPA is dedicated to unlocking countless possibilities for our community while contributing to a stronger, more prosperous Canada.

CIBPA is proud to support the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women, a beacon of hope for girls, women, seniors, and families. This charity is dedicated to empowering individuals to achieve their full potential by providing crucial services that promote healthy families, foster strong community relationships and encourage economic self-sufficiency. Their mission resonates with our founding core principles at CIBPA.





CIBPA is proud to recognize Dr. Giuseppina (Pina) D'Agostino as the 2024 Woman of the Year. Pina is a law professor, lawyer, author, public speaker, board director, and internationally-recognized scholar at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, specializing in intellectual property (IP), AI & emerging technologies, innovation law, and policy. She serves as the Editor-in-Chief for the Intellectual Property Journal and, in 2022, was recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada by Canadian Lawyer Magazine and as Top 5 in Business Law.



## WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Pina D'Agostino



### NEXT EVENT

## Women in Leadership

Join us at the CIBPA Women In Leadership Event 2024 as we celebrate outstanding women breaking barriers in their professions. Our event aims to bring together a diverse group of aspiring and established women leaders for an evening filled with networking and keynote speakers. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds will be allocated to the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women, a beacon of hope for girls, women, seniors, and families.



Wednesday,  
March 20, 2024



5:30 pm – 9:00 pm



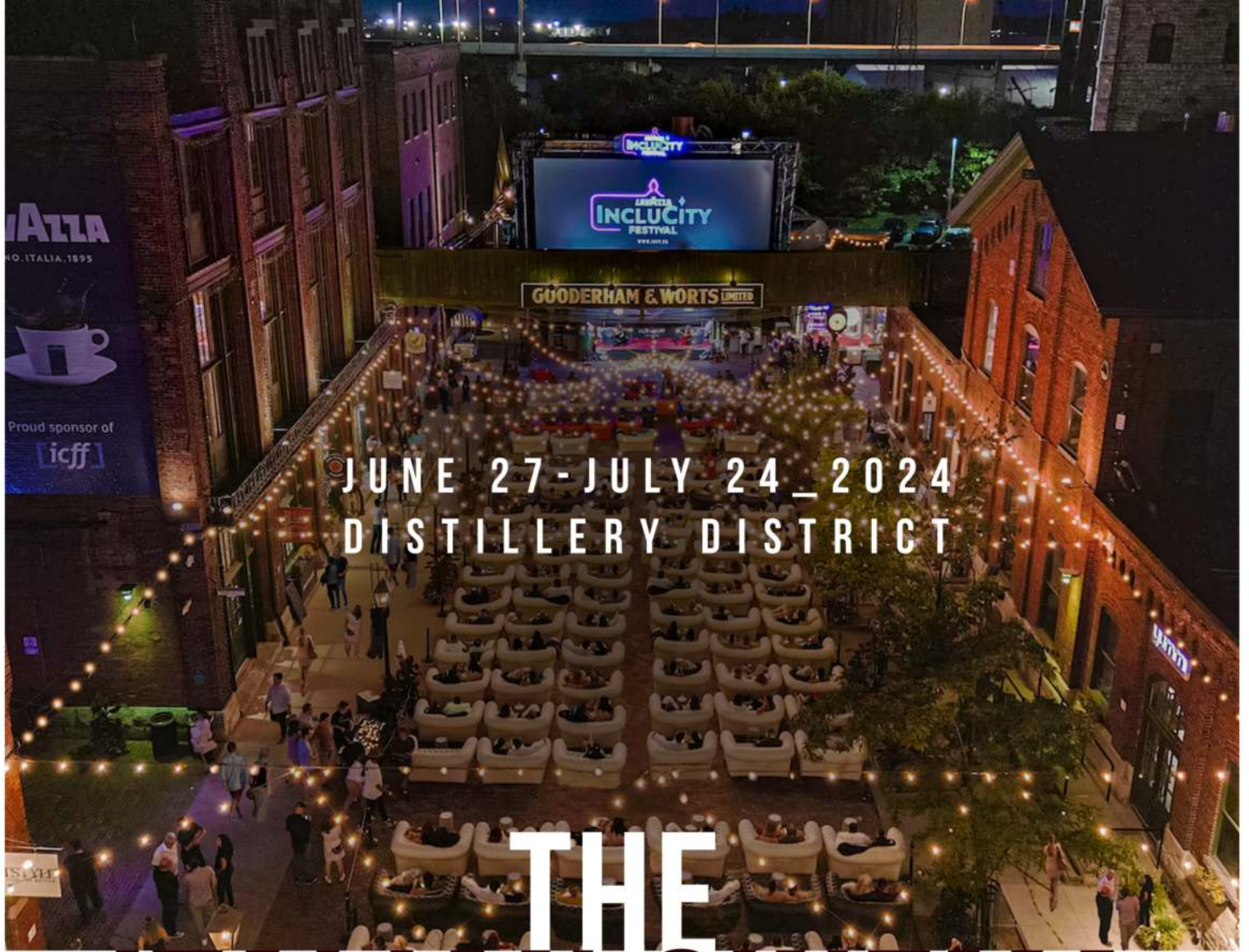
Venu Event Space, 2800  
Hwy 7, Vaughan

To register, visit:  
[toronto.cibpa.com](https://toronto.cibpa.com)



## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP 2024





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## ANTHONY *Pullano*



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CANADIAN ITALIAN BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

To benefit  
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FEBRUARY 14th, 2024, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

MONTECASINO EVENT SPACE, VAUGHAN ON

Live Artist

MR. ANTHONY PULLANO IS A RENOWNED CANADIAN ITALIAN ARTIST BASED IN TORONTO CANADA. MR. PULLANO'S CLIENTS AND PRIVATE COLLECTORS INCLUDE PEOPLE SUCH AS: JULIO IGLESIAS, PLACIDO DOMINGO, ORFA HARNOY, PRIME MINISTER JEAN CHRETIEN, PRIME MINISTER PAUL MARTIN, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER JULIO ANDREOTTI, THE CANADIAN EMBASSY ROME, THE CANADIAN CONSULATE MILANO , THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND MANY MORE HIGH PROFILE FIGURES.





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Masters Insurance provides a broad range of insurance and investment services. The company's true mission however, goes far beyond any product or service it provides today. Masters Insurance has been, and always will be, for generations. From humble beginnings as a family business, the company now represents clients across North America. Honesty, sincerity and a sense of community are at the core of Masters Insurance. These timeless qualities reveal themselves through generations of Masters employees, clients, friends and family.

At Masters, we believe in planning for the future, through the eyes of the giants before us. It was Winston Churchill that wisely said, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see". We couldn't agree more.

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# live auction

- Scotiabank Arena Private Box (Masters Insurance) Raptors vs Lakers Apr. 2, 2024
- West Jet Flight for 2 worldwide
- Pullano Original Painting
- 4 Loge box tickets to a Leafs game and 4 Loge box tickets to a Raptors game. TLN





# silent auction

- Blue Jays baseball jersey and autographed ball
- 4 new tires from Active Green and Ross-Ralph and Rose Chiodo
- Nine and Dine- Gold 3some at Hunt Club with Dinner
- Julien Gentile Artwork 40x40
- Murano Glass set of 6 by Dario
- Dinner for 10 @ Chef's House
- One night voucher from Monte Carlo
- Raptors tickets, vs Orlando Magic, fri. Mar. 15 7:30 sec 103 row 28 seat 5 and 6 From Cora
- \$250 Gift Card- Freedom Med Spa

**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

# volunteers

**Dear Mending Broken Hearts volunteers,**

We extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to every volunteer who dedicated their time, energy, and passion to make our gala a resounding success. Your unwavering commitment to our cause was evident in every task you took on, from setting up the venue to ensuring a seamless flow of events throughout the evening. Your enthusiasm and selfless contributions added a special touch to the event, creating an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie. It is through your collective efforts that we were able to create unforgettable moments and experiences for all attendees. Your willingness to go above and beyond in serving our community exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism.

The gala's success is a testament to our incredible team, and we are truly fortunate to have individuals like you who believe in the power of making a positive impact. Your dedication has made a difference in the event's success and left a lasting impression on the hearts of everyone involved.

Thank you for being the driving force behind the success of our gala.

Your generosity and commitment inspire us all and remind us that we can achieve remarkable things together. We look forward to continuing this journey with you and building a stronger, more vibrant community.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
CIBPA TORONTO

CARMELA BUSCEMA  
GIANPAOLO CAPOZZI

MARA CIPRIANI  
BIANCA CIPRIANI  
ELANA DHAI

MARINA DI BATTISTA  
LIANA DI BATTISTA

ANNA GARITO

NATALIE KAMPLEMACHER

LUCA LACIVITA

SABRINA MARRELLI

SHAYAN NANDI

VANESSA SACCO

MEG WOODS

CHRISSI ZINNER

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

LAUREN CARABETTA ST. ELIZABETH

SOPHIA DELLAFORTUNA HOLY CROSS

MICHAELA DELLAFORTUNA HOLY CROSS

ISABELLE EGIZII HOLY CROSS

SAMANTHA MAZZAFERRO HOLY CROSS

CLARA PARTIPILO EMILY CARR SS





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