

Burro'd Theatre Launches New National Blackbox Theatre Initiative

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BARRIE, ON - Burro'd Theatre has received support from the Canada Council for the Arts for *The Burros: A Strategic Analysis of Affordable, Artist-Led Venue Models*, aimed at developing a bold new solution to Canada's performing arts infrastructure crisis.

Independent artists and small companies face a dire and persistent challenge: affordable, flexible, properly equipped performance space is increasingly difficult to access. This barrier limits creation, touring, and the growth of cultural life - especially outside major urban centres.

The Burros will explore a potentially transformative concept: a standardized network of intimate, performance venues in empty storefronts - designed to be affordable, replicable, and sustainable - in mid-sized and underserved communities.

Led by Marissa Caldwell and Iain Moggach, Burro'd Theatre will conduct sector consultation, financial modelling, operational research, and partnership development to create a detailed roadmap for a new kind of cultural infrastructure: small, accessible, community-rooted venues that could support artists locally while strengthening touring networks.

"Artists already know the need for (and frustrations with) securing accessible and affordable space," says Artistic Director, Iain Moggach, "we want to design a practical, scalable solution that changes the conditions under which independent performance is made, shared, and sustained in this country."

Work is already underway, and this phase will culminate in *The Burros Business Plan 2030*: a comprehensive plan outlining governance, financial, operational, and partnership models for future venue development.

Burro'd Theatre gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

About Burro'd Theatre

Burro'd Theatre is a theatre company and arts support and consulting organization based in Barrie and Essa Township, Ontario. The company creates intimate, accessible, and community-rooted performance, explores new models for artistic sustainability and cultural infrastructure, and provides strategic planning initiatives for arts organizations.

www.burrodtheatre.ca and follow Burro'd Theatre on social media for more information on the company, its programming, and its initiatives.