

Accessibility Guide

Clay and Paper Theatre



Image Description: Three performers wearing all white are playing various brass instruments outdoors in a park.



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Image Description: Two puppeteers are dressed all in white and they wear surgical masks. Together they operate a two foot high puppet that sits on top of a colourfully painted bike trailer. They perform in a park.

Welcome

This visual guide was created to help you better prepare for attending a performance of the show Art Ambulance presented by Clay and Paper Theatre. We are the resident theatre company of Dufferin Grove Park and we perform outdoors in public space. This guide will be helpful if this is your first time watching one of our shows.

If there is any information in this visual guide that is missing or needs clarification please contact **clayandpaper@gmail.com**



Image Description: Three performers walking in a line hold giant two dimensional yellow saxophones as if they are playing them. They are dressed all in white with red and gold vests, as they parade energetically down a city street.

About Clay and Paper Theatre



Clay and Paper Theatre creates and performs original, multi-disciplinary, community driven theatrical works, using narrative theatre and large scale puppetry in public spaces for large and diverse audiences. Since 1994 we have produced plays, pageants and parades with and within the community grounded in the idea that performance in public space is an act of cultural transformation. Our practice of building, rehearsing and performing in full public view is an attempt on our part to reunite art with the daily life of the community, and to make art accessible to all. Clay and Paper Theatre has been the resident theatre company in Dufferin Grove Park for over twenty-eight years.



Image Description: An audience sitting on a park lawn watch three puppeteers animate a five foot wide by four foot high giant fox head that is painted in rich red and orange colours and has a flowing rust coloured transparent cloth body.

Dufferin Grove Park

Dufferin Grove Park is located southeast of Bloor and Dufferin Station, on the east side of Dufferin Street, and across from Dufferin Mall.

The address of the park is 875 Dufferin St, Toronto, ON M6H 3K8.

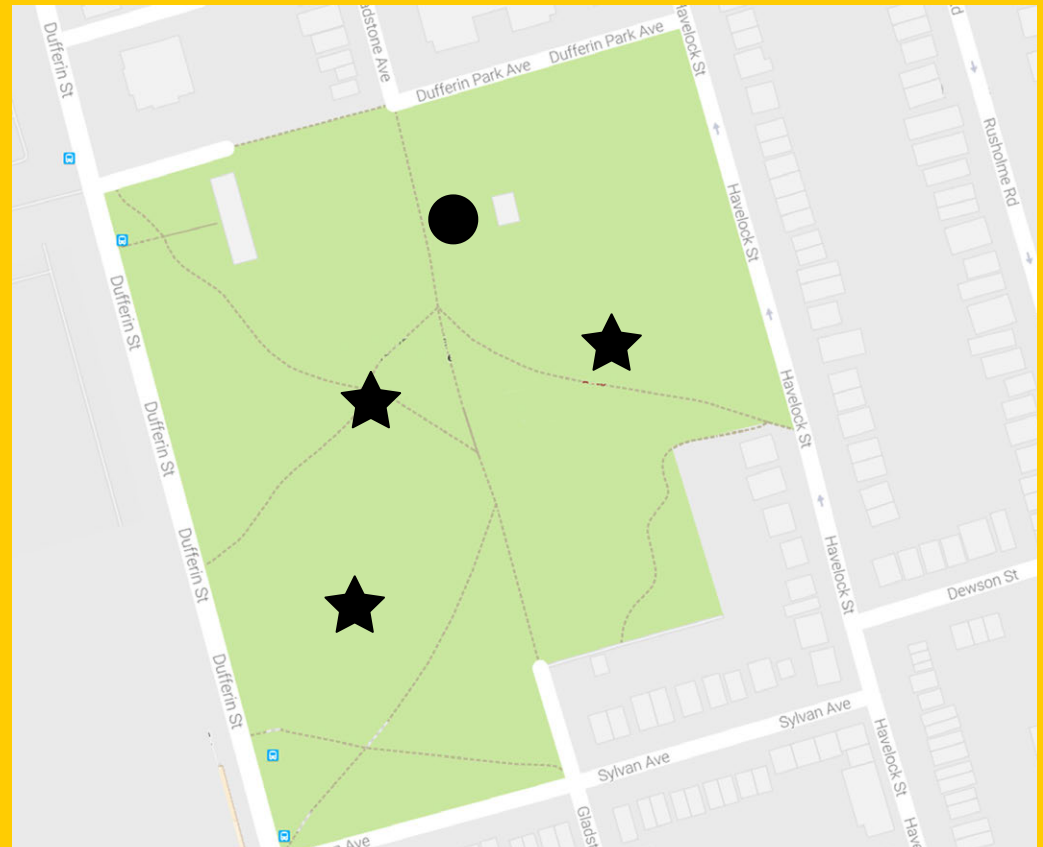
Image Description: A City of Toronto sign on a red brick building reads: Dufferin Grove Park, Clubhouse and Artificial Rink. In front of the building is a green garden, a large tree and a locked up bike.



Dufferin Grove Park

We perform in different areas in the park to accommodate the various plays, pageants, and parades that we produce. The ★ marks some of the areas in which we perform. The ● marks where the gendered bathrooms are located.

Image Description: A screen capture of a Google map of Dufferin Grove Park has icons added to it, that include black stars and a black dot. The three black stars illustrate where Clay and Paper Theatre performances are located in the park and the black dot marks where the bathrooms are. The park is framed on the north side by Dufferin Park Avenue, on the east side by Havelock Street, on the south side by Sylvan Avenue and on the west side by Dufferin Street.



Dufferin Grove Park

This is a closeup photo of the southeast corner of Dufferin Park Avenue and Dufferin Street, across from the Dufferin Mall. Currently this south east entrance to the park is partly blocked by construction fences. You can still enter the park if you walk east along Dufferin Park Avenue.

Image Description: A view of Dufferin Grove Park from the southeast corner of Dufferin Park Avenue and Dufferin Street. The intersection has traffic lights and the southeast corner also has a TTC stop and shelter. A black arrow points to the entrance of the park.



Dufferin Grove Park

This is a closeup photo of the southeast corner of Dufferin Park Avenue east of Dufferin Street. Follow the sidewalk east along Dufferin Park Avenue and it will take you to the park's north gate and main pathway through Dufferin Grove Park.

Image Description: A view of Dufferin Grove Park from the southeast corner of Dufferin Park Avenue and Dufferin Street. A line of cars and trucks are parked along Dufferin Park Avenue. A sidewalk runs along the block and beside the sidewalk a metal fence separates pedestrians from the park. In the background is a light brown coloured building under construction.



Dufferin Grove Park

This is a photo of the path along Dufferin Grove Park Avenue. Continue to follow this path and it will take you to the north gate and main pathway through Dufferin Grove Park.

Image Description: A view of the path of Dufferin Grove Park Avenue. Two black pillars are in front of the path. On the left side of the path is a wooden trellis fence with trees and on the right side is a wire construction fence.



Dufferin Grove Park

This is a photo of the north gate entrance to Dufferin Grove Park on Dufferin Park Avenue.

Image Description: A view of Dufferin Grove Park from the north entrance on Dufferin Park Avenue. To the right of the entrance are wire construction fences, cement blocks and two yellow gates. Behind the yellow gates are two blue recycling bins and two black garbage bins. There are large trees all around providing shade in the park.



Entrance to Dufferin Grove Park

Construction Notice

The Clubhouse (sometimes called the Rink House) and the whole north west section of the park are under major renovation and the area is an active construction site. The work is expected to finish in the winter of 2023. For more information on the renovation of the Clubhouse and rinks, please visit toronto.ca/DufferinGroveImprovements

Image Description: A closeup photo of a blue and white City of Toronto construction sign attached to a wire fence, explains what improvements will be made to the park. The sign reads: Construction Notice in Dufferin Grove Park North-West Corner and Clubhouse Improvements. The sign also has an aerial view of the renovated design. Someone has also affixed a label to the sign. It is a logo of a fist covered in the colours of the Medicine Wheel, white, yellow, red, and black, and framed by the words "Native Pride."



Getting to Dufferin Grove Park


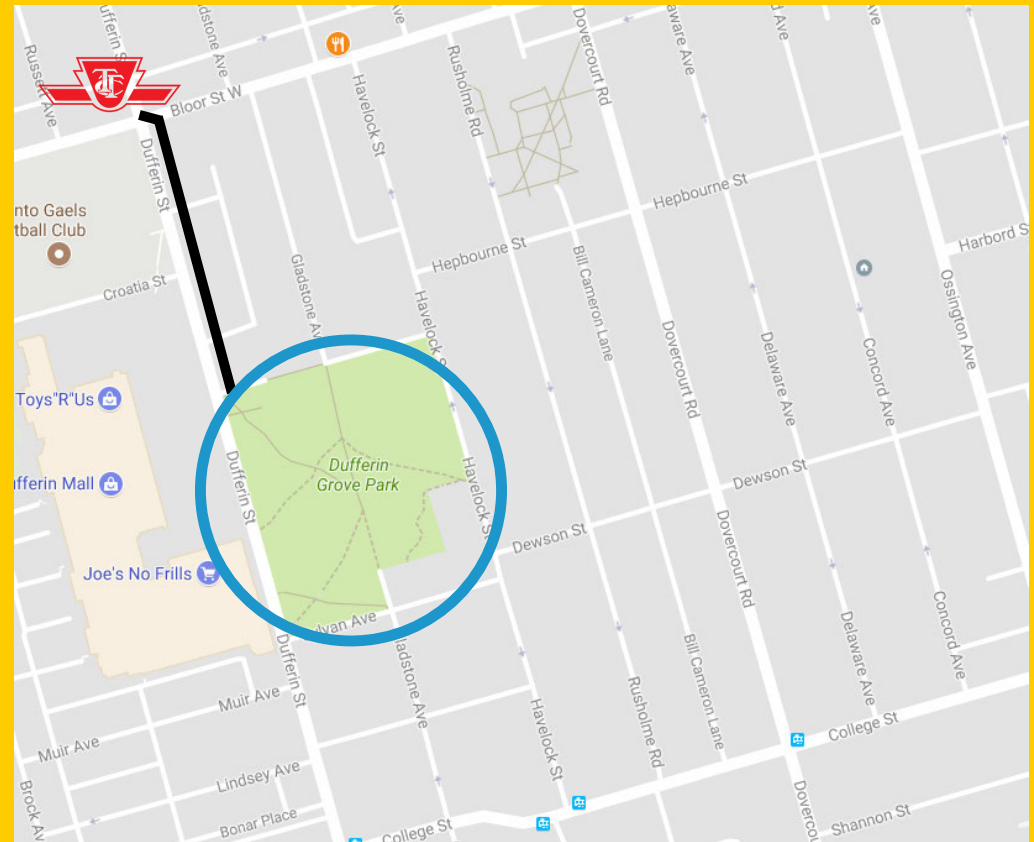
To get to the park you can walk, bike, drive, or take public transit. The closest subway station is Dufferin Station and it has an accessibility elevator. The TTC logo  on the map below shows where Dufferin Station is located.

Image Description: A screen capture of a Google map with a red TTC Logo indicates where Dufferin Station is located. A long black line starts at the TTC logo and runs down Dufferin Street to show how to get to the park. A blue circle surrounds the area of Dufferin Grove Park.



Getting to Dufferin Grove Park

There is free parking available at Dufferin Mall.

If audience members bring their bikes and trailers, they may be parked and locked at the back of the audience, away from the performance areas. Please ask Front of House Staff for help to make sure bikes are in a performance-free zone.

Image Description: As seen from the back of the audience, numerous bicycles are parked behind the audience seating area. A green canopy of extremely tall, mature trees frame the audience and performance area. Some attendees are also sitting on the green park lawn and watching the show.



Washrooms

There are two gendered washrooms located in a red brick building on the north west side of the soccer field. This building is called the Fieldhouse.

Image Description: A brown and red brick building with a chimney and green edging around the roof, is surrounded by small plants and park lawn. Over the entrance of the door is the word Ladies written in vintage script.



Admission

Clay and Paper Theatre does not have a box office where we sell tickets before a show. Our events are pay-what-you-can with a suggested donation of \$10 per person. But it is not necessary to pay if you are unable to. We believe that the arts should be accessible to everyone.

Before and after the show, giant blue top hats are made available for you to drop your donation into. Clay and Paper Theatre also has charitable status and you are able to make online donations directly to our CanadaHelps page at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/clay-and-paper-theatre/>



Image Description: An audience member who is sitting on a pink blanket is watching a performance. One of the performers is wearing a theatrical half mask and has their arms raised as they are running away from a puppeteer who is in a giant puppet that is draped in black cloth with a grey face.

Seating

Seating is unassigned. During our performances you can bring a blanket, a lawn chair, or just sit on the grass. There will be a designated wheelchair accessible area. There will also be 12 chairs available for anyone who needs supportive seating. You can request a chair by emailing clayandpaper@gmail.com.



Image Description: Audience members sit on a park lawn on different coloured blankets, or lawn chairs, while many attendees also stand at the back of the audience while watching a performance.



COVID-19 Protocols

As the pandemic effects communities in different ways, we will continue to practice COVID safety protocols. We will be setting up physically distanced blankets for seating and we encourage you to bring your own lawn chairs. Our performers will also be physically distanced from the audience during the show. We recommend that even though we are outdoors in a park that audience members wear a mask. By taking part in these protocols we all help keep our fellow community members safer, especially those who could be immunocompromised, elderly or at risk.

Image Description: Three performers who are wearing surgical face masks and white hats, are together looking with great interest at a first-aid kit. In the background is a park lawn and soccer goal posts.

Touch Tours

We will be offering Touch Tours which is an opportunity for individuals to have a tactile exploration of the different elements we use in our performances. Individuals will have the opportunity to touch and explore different puppets, instruments and costumes. Performers will act as guides to help participants get a sense of the performance environment. The guides will explain how puppets are made, and give context to the images, props and music in the play. Touch Tours will happen before the show begins and they will be 45 minutes long. Touch Tours need to be pre-booked and you can book a tour by filling out a Google Doc Form.

To access the form click [here](#).




Image Description: A performer wears a theatrical half mask that is painted yellow and light brown. Their hands are open towards the audience off camera. The blurred background is that of grass and trees.

Relaxed Performances



Clay and Paper Theatre's performances are relaxed. This means that people can move around, eat a snack, lie down, rest, or walk away during the show. We do however perform in the park and because of that there will be noises, sounds, and movements that are out of our control. Beside our performance space is a playground where you might hear kids playing. We are also near a soccer field where people play soccer or sometimes play with their dogs. On occasion we also have friendly visitors such as squirrels, dogs, or birds.

While certain elements are out of our control, we strive to create a space in the park for audiences to feel comfortable and relaxed and welcome.



Before the Show

If you arrive before the show you can pick a place to sit as seating is unassigned. There will also be a pre-show talk where the performers welcome the audience and tell them about the safety precaution of staying behind the rope that is laid out in front of the performance area. This is to remind people, especially children, not to run onto the stage. Puppeteers in giant puppets or actors in masks may not be able to always see the audience member. We also inform audiences of our "Freeze!" technique. Particularly if small children wander onto the stage, performers will yell, "Freeze." All performers will freeze until the child or their parent helps escort them back to their seat



Image Description: A performer who is a wheel chair user is wearing all white and a blue surgical face mask. Their arms are raised as they speak to audience members seated on a park lawn. In the background are trees and an apartment building.

End of Show

At the end of the show the performers will bow and the audience will clap to show their appreciation. At this point, a performer holding a giant blue cardboard top hat will come around to collect donations from audience members who wish to support Clay and Paper Theatre. Please remember that the company is a not-for-profit arts organization with charitable status and our shows are pay-what-you can, with a suggested donation of \$10. However, you can pay less than that or nothing at all.

Image Description: Three performers who are all wearing white hats and different colour face masks are waving their hands at the camera. All three sit on bikes with attached, colourfully painted trailers, on a park lawn and under the deep shade of a tree.





Thank You

We hope you enjoyed Art Ambulance by Clay and Paper Theatre.

If you have any questions, please email at **clayandpaper@gmail.com**

Photos that appear in the Visual Guide are by: **Tamara Romanchuk, Soka Lazara and Kat Rizza**

Image Description: Three performers dressed all in white and who are also wearing blue surgical masks and white bike helmets, ride on a bike path with bike trailers. Blue, red and green flags are attached to the trailers in an upright position.

Contact Information

Email: **clayandpaper@gmail.com**

Address: **221 Sterling Road**

Toronto, Ontario M6P 3L4

Instagram: **@clay.paper.theatre**

Twitter: **@clayandpaper**

Facebook: **@clayandpaper**

Image Description: Founder and Co-Artistic Director, David Anderson, plays a red accordion in front of a blurred background of a brown brick building, a nine foot tall red puppet with open mouth. He is wearing black framed glasses and a black top hat that is decorated with orange and red and white striped ribbons.



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