

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEB. 27, 2014

## Art Gallery of Ontario announces donor and architect for Grange Park revitalization project

**TORONTO** — The **Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)** is pleased to announce that **W. Galen Weston**, Chairman and President of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, has committed financial support to help restore and revitalize Grange Park, located in the heart of downtown Toronto.

This commitment provides a catalyst for the AGO to collaborate with the City of Toronto and the local community to develop a design that will make Grange Park green, beautiful, resilient, sustainable and accessible. The AGO is working with the City to finalize the terms of its contribution to the project.

Grange Park is an integral part of the AGO's history and Toronto's heritage. While this two-hectare green space is the AGO's property, it has been operated as a public park since 1911 through an agreement established between the Gallery and the City.

"Grange Park has a cherished place in my family's history. It is just steps away from the original Weston Bakery where my grandfather lived and worked both baking and delivering the bread. While the neighbourhood has changed, the park has been a constant over all these years. I am delighted that this support will ensure its beauty can be enjoyed for generations to come," said W. Galen Weston.

"Grange Park has a remarkable potential to be transformed into a welcoming and versatile park that serves its diverse local community and reflects its history and neighbourhood," said Matthew Teitelbaum, Director and CEO of the AGO. "As a longtime supporter of the AGO, Galen Weston has once again chosen to invest in the Gallery and our community. This project will allow us to contribute to the beauty and vitality of our great city of Toronto."

Mr. Weston's financial commitment has allowed the AGO to commence initial planning with landscape architect **Greg Smallenberg** of Vancouver firm **PFS Studio**, an award-winning Canadian planning, urban design and landscape architecture firm.

Further details about the Grange Park revitalization project, including scope, budget and schedule, will be announced as they become available.

### ABOUT GRANGE PARK

Grange Park, a two-hectare green space in downtown Toronto, was originally part of the Grange estate built in 1820 by the Boulton family, who played an influential role in developing the young city of Toronto. In 1910, Harriet Boulton Smith bequeathed The Grange house and estate to the newly founded Art Gallery of Toronto for the purposes of building an art museum on the property. In 1911, the Gallery entered into an agreement with the City of Toronto to operate the land south of Grange House as a public park. This agreement still stands between the AGO and the City, and Grange Park has become a well-loved and well-used gathering place.