



2025  
Bloom  
Burton  
Award  
Gala

PROGRAM



September 25, 2025

The Ritz-Carlton, Toronto  
181 Wellington St. W.



#BBAWARD2025

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Dear Guests

We are honoured to be hosting the 2025 Bloom Burton Award Gala this year on September 25, 2025 at the elegant Ritz-Carlton, Toronto Hotel to spotlight our exceptional finalists for the 2025 Bloom Burton Award.

Each year the Bloom Burton Award celebrates those who demonstrate excellence in the healthcare field and the award is given to an individual in any role, from any field of healthcare, and at any stage of development for their amazing and impactful work in the previous year. The Bloom Burton Award aims to recognize and celebrate those who advance medical science, attract or provide risk capital, launch new products or companies, or change policy with a dramatic and positive impact on the world stage.

For 2025, we received nominations from the public at large, and then our international and esteemed judging panel narrowed down the nominees to the following outstanding finalists, in alphabetical order:

- Mark Nawacki, Co-founder and President of Searchlight Pharma
- Oliver Technow, Former Chief Executive Officer of BIOVECTRA
- Ali Tehrani, Former President and Chief Executive Officer of Zymeworks

This year's finalists are a group of proven leaders committed to delivering exceptional results for the healthcare community. Each of them has contributed enormously – from championing innovative pharmaceuticals, to developing a regional healthcare hub, and advancing Canadian biotech entrepreneurship. Please raise a glass and toast their impact with us.

Sincerely,  
Brian Bloom & Jolyon Burton

# AGENDA

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**6:00 PM**

**Cocktail Reception**

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**7:00 PM**

**Bloom Burton Award Program and Dinner**

Welcome Remarks | Brian Bloom & Jolyon Burton

Musical Performance | Gabi Epstein

*"This Is Me" from The Greatest Showman (Pasek/Paul)*

Celebrating Mark Nawacki

*2025 Bloom Burton Award Finalist*

Celebrating Oliver Technow

*2025 Bloom Burton Award Finalist*

Celebrating Ali Tehrani

*2025 Bloom Burton Award Finalist*

Musical Performance | Jay Davis

*"This Is The Moment" from Jekyll & Hyde (Wildhorn/Bricusse)*

Remarks and Winner Announcement | Roberto Bellini

*2024 Bloom Burton Award Winner*

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**10:00 PM**

**Networking and Entertainment**

# A MESSAGE FROM ROBERTO BELLINI

*"The Bloom Burton Award shines a light on those great spirits in our community who are willing to take on the difficult and sometimes unpopular challenges.*

*Their stories inspire us all to keep pushing forward toward a brighter, and more innovative future."*



**ROBERTO BELLINI**

2024 Bloom Burton Award Winner

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Bloom Burton Award Gala! Over nearly a decade, this event has recounted the stories that make our industry so special: life-saving science impacting millions around the world; relentless dedication and perseverance from teams overcoming all odds; and yes, even takeouts worthy of Wall Street glory.

Before we turn to this year's remarkable nominees, I want to pause and honor two Canadian biotech pioneers whose visionary leadership laid the foundation upon which our industry stands today. At the dawn of the global biotech era, while U.S. champions like Genentech and Gilead emerged, two Canadian entrepreneurs built their own biotech legacies. In the west, Dr. Julia Levy built QLT into a company whose breakthrough therapy Visudyne transformed care for macular degeneration on a global scale. In the east, Dr. Francesco Bellini built BioChem Pharma, which developed Epivir — an antiviral treatment that became a cornerstone therapy in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Sadly, both these giants recently passed away, and yet their impact remains — in the people they touched, the institutions they helped shape, and the national culture of biotech entrepreneurship they nurtured.

This year's nominees continue that legacy of innovation and entrepreneurship. We celebrate Ali Tehrani's greater than decade-long commitment to achieving the ultimate feat for a biotech, a drug approval. In his case the FDA approval for zanidatamab in the treatment of biliary tract cancer. We applaud Mark Nawacki for defying expectations by building and successfully exiting a specialty pharma company, proving this sector can still thrive in Canada. And we commend Oliver Technow for leading a contract manufacturing company in Prince Edward Island to a successful exit, during a period when contract manufacturing had been generally moving offshore.

Albert Einstein is quoted as saying, "Great spirits always encounter violent opposition from mediocre minds." The Bloom Burton Award shines a light on those great spirits in our community who are willing to take on the difficult and sometimes unpopular challenges. Their stories inspire us all to keep pushing forward toward a brighter, and more innovative future.

Enjoy the evening!

Best regards,



Roberto Bellini  
Managing Partner, BSQUARED Capital  
Former President and CEO, BELLUS Health Inc.



# PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA



**The Right Honourable Mark Carney**





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Bloom Burton Award Gala.

The Bloom Burton Award pays tribute to individuals who have made tremendous contributions to the healthcare industry. I would like to commend this year's nominees for their commitment to making a difference. You can take pride in knowing that your efforts are deeply appreciated and are helping to build stronger, healthier communities.

I would also like to thank the organizers for their commitment to promoting and supporting innovation in healthcare.

I wish you all a wonderful event.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Mark Carney.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., O.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada

Ottawa  
2025

# PREMIER OF ONTARIO



**The Honourable Doug Ford**



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

September 25, 2025

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

I'm pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone taking part in the 2025 Bloom Burton Award Gala, in honour of the scientists, inventors and other luminaries for their contributions to Canada's health care sector in the past year.

Congratulations and good luck to this year's finalists, Mark Nawacki, of Searchlight Pharma, Oliver Technow of Biovectra and Ali Tehrani, of DCx Biotherapeutics. We have some of the best minds working in our health care industry and your achievements in the past year are evidence of that.

Ontario's life sciences ecosystem supports thousands of well-paying, highly skilled jobs in communities across our province. Our government will continue working to unlock the full potential of the sector, support innovation and fledgling technologies, and enhance companies' competitiveness at home and in the global arena.

I applaud everyone at Bloom Burton & Co. for organizing this visionary event. Your commitment to celebrating excellence in the Canadian health sector helps build a culture that rewards the pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

Have a memorable gala.

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

**Doug Ford**  
**Premier**

# MAYOR OF TORONTO



**Her Worship Olivia Chow**





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone attending the 2025 Bloom Burton Award Gala, hosted by Bloom Burton & Co.

This event celebrates and honours an individual scientist, inventor, executive, entrepreneur, industry leader, or policy maker who has made a significant impact in healthcare and related industries. Congratulations to this year's nominees and thank you for your contributions to Canada's healthcare industry.

The City of Toronto is proud to acknowledge organizations and individuals who are committed to making a difference in their communities.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable event.

Yours truly,

Olivia Chow  
Mayor of Toronto

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2  
416-397-CITY (2489) [mayor\\_chow@toronto.ca](mailto:mayor_chow@toronto.ca)

**2026**  
**BLOOM BURTON & CO.**  
**HEALTHCARE INVESTOR**  
**CONFERENCE**

**BBHIC**  
**2026**

**APRIL 21-22, 2026**



# FINALISTS

Our three finalists are celebrated for their incredible contributions to the Canadian healthcare sector. Each of the finalists have received a \$25,000 cash prize, and a single winner will have the honour of being the recipient of the 2025 Bloom Burton Award.



**Mark Nawacki**

Co-founder and  
President

**Searchlight Pharma**



**Oliver Technow**

Former Chief  
Executive Officer

**BIOVECTRA**



**Ali Tehrani**

Former President and  
Chief Executive Officer

**Zymeworks**





# **MARK NAWACKI**

Co-founder and President  
Searchlight Pharma



# MARK NAWACKI

## Co-founder and President of Searchlight Pharma

Mark Nawacki is an accomplished executive with wide-ranging experience in the pharmaceutical industry in Canada and internationally. He is a co-founder of Searchlight Pharma, having served as President and CEO from the company's inception in February 2015 through to its sale to Apotex in June 2024. He continues to lead Searchlight which is now the branded, innovative specialty division of Canadian pharmaceutical champion Apotex.

Mark has spent his career building businesses through acquisition, licensing and business development leadership. Under his guidance, the acquisitions of Miravo Healthcare (March 2023), Erfa Canada (December 2021), Besins Healthcare Canada (June 2016) as well as over 20 external partnering transactions have grown Searchlight Pharma from an idea with less than \$1 million in revenues in its founding year into a fast-growing and profitable Canadian industry leader with over \$150 million in revenues annually. While at Paladin Labs, Mark directed over 80 external product transactions and led the company's international expansion into African and Latin American markets. In addition to shaping the therapeutic focus of Paladin's Canadian business, Mark was the chief architect of Paladin's international expansion and emerging markets strategy, leading the investments in Pharmaplan (Pty) Ltd. (2009) and the acquisition of Litha Healthcare Group (2012) in South Africa, as well as the acquisition of Ativa Pharma in Mexico (2012). From his arrival at Paladin in 2003, consolidated revenues grew from about \$20 million to in excess of \$300 million annually.

Prior to joining Paladin, Mark held progressively senior leadership positions at Pharmacia, a global top 10 pharmaceutical company that is now part of Pfizer. He began his career as a consultant in Arthur Andersen's Canadian financial advisory services practice in Toronto, and later spent time in the consumer packaged goods industry working with The Pillsbury Company where he worked on the Green Giant brand team in Canada.

Mark holds a BA in International Relations and Russian and East European Studies from the University of Toronto (Trinity), MBA also from the University of Toronto, and is a current member of Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the Licensing Executive Society (USA & Canada), is a former President and Board Member of the Canadian Healthcare Licensing Association, and also served on the boards of Kane Biotech where he was both chairman and chair of the audit committee, and of Intelgenx Technologies Corp where he was chair of the compensation committee. Mark currently serves on the board of directors of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre.



# **OLIVER TECHNOW**

Former Chief Executive Officer  
BIOVECTRA

# OLIVER TECHNOW

## Former Chief Executive Officer of BIOVECTRA

Oliver Technow is the former CEO of BIOVECTRA Inc., a Charlottetown based, globally operating Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) that serves pharmaceutical and biotech companies with full-service solutions for API (active pharmaceutical ingredients) and intermediates. BIOVECTRA operates several facilities in the Maritimes and employs more than 650 highly skilled individuals.

Oliver joined BIOVECTRA in late 2015 as President. He oversaw the divestiture of the company from Mallinckrodt to HIG Capital in 2019 and was appointed its Chief Executive Officer. Under his leadership BIOVECTRA developed into a globally recognized CDMO powerhouse, shifting its offering from small molecules to a full-service, vertically integrated CDMO, supporting clinical and commercial scale across biologics, complex chemistry and advanced modalities.

Oliver has more than 35 years of experience in the global life sciences sector. Prior to joining BIOVECTRA, he held Management roles with Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and Eisai Pharmaceuticals which included responsibilities on the Global level as well as local mandates in Canada, Europe and the USA. Born and raised in Europe, he relocated to North America in 2007 and has lived and worked in both, Canada and the USA since.

Oliver is now operating a consulting company, Morpheus Management Consulting Inc.

Oliver serves as a Chair of the Board of BIOTECCanada and is the past chair of the PEI BioAlliance. During his tenure at the PEI BioAlliance he championed the emergence of CASTL (Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in LifeSciences) and several key capital projects such as the Biomanufacturing Incubator (BMI) and the BioAccelerator. He served as an appointed member of the Canadian Health / BioScience Economic Strategy Table (HBEST), a federal initiative to get advice from the private sector for Canada's future economic success.





# **ALI TEHRANI**

Former President and Chief Executive Officer  
Zymeworks



# ALI TEHRANI

## Former President and Chief Executive Officer of Zymeworks

Currently, Ali Tehrani serves as the CEO and Co-Founder of DCx Biotherapeutics. Prior to this, Ali co-founded Zymeworks and held the positions of President, Chief Executive Officer, and Board of Directors member from the company's inception in September 2003 until January 2022. During his tenure, he guided the company through numerous pivotal milestones, including an initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange in 2017, the establishment of nine partnerships with major pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms, and the advancement of multiple antibody therapeutics into clinical trials. Notably, in November 2024, Zymeworks' Zanidatamab received approval from the US FDA for the treatment of biliary tract cancer.

Following his time at Zymeworks, Ali joined Amplitude Ventures as a Partner, where he supported portfolio companies and contributed to company creation efforts, ultimately leading to the founding of DCx. Ali holds both Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees in biochemistry from the University of Massachusetts, and earned a Doctoral degree in microbiology and immunology from the University of British Columbia.

# MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

## FEATURING



**Gabi Epstein**

Performing at the Bloom Burton Awards for the second year in a row is multi-award winning singer, actor, and recording artist **Gabi Epstein** - one of the country's most sought after performers best known for playing Fanny Brice in the Segal Centre's production of *Funny Girl* and Audrey in the Stratford Festival's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. With a professional career of over 20 years, some highlights include starring in the Tony Award winning musical *Once* at the Ed Mirvish Theatre, performing in *Billy Elliot* on the Stratford Festival Theatre stage with a 45 piece orchestra and 30 other cast members, singing the role of Eponine in *Les Miserables: In Concert* with orchestra, starring in the Canadian Premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's award-winning one-woman show *Tell me on a Sunday*, and performing for musical legends Alan Menken, Steven Schwartz and Marc Shaiman on various occasions.

Gabi has two studio albums - *Show Off* (released in 2010) and *Gabs Sings Babs* - a love letter to Barbra Streisand (released in 2022). The latter was turned into a solo-show (also called *Gabs Sings Babs*) where Gabi, often called "Canada's Barbra Streisand" questions why she can't simply be known as "Canada's Gabi Epstein". Using reimagined new arrangements of Streisand's most iconic hits, Gabi goes on a journey to rediscover the "Gabs" in all of the "Babs". Her show has been performed to sold-out audiences all over Canada.



**Jay Davis**

**Jay Davis** has worked as a guest vocalist for Disney Cruise Lines, Holland America, Princess Cruise Lines, The Niagara Symphony Orchestra, and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. He has a varied and extensive resume in England's famous West End, Germany, and Canada with over 100 professional credits on stage and screen. He has worked under Tony award winning directors Gabrielle Barre and Michael Grief. Performed for Tony award winner Adam Guettel, and the legendary Stephen Schwartz, and worked for the honourable Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber. In 2019, Jay was a member of the first international cast of the Tony award winning Broadway Show, *Dear Evan Hansen*. Jay took part in the Canadian musical, "Maggie," written by Canadian country star Johnny Reid and produced by the same people who created the Canadian Broadway hit, "Come From Away." In 2025, Jay took part in the Broadway bound production of *Life After* at The Ed Mirvish Theatre downtown Toronto.

# JUDGES

Our esteemed panel of judges are respected international leaders in healthcare investment, entrepreneurship and journalism.

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# JUDGES



**Michael Altman**

**Head of Strategy  
Perceptive Advisors**

Michael Altman joined Perceptive in 2007 and is the Head of Strategy on the investment team. His focus is on medical devices, diagnostics, digital health and Specialty Pharmaceuticals. He is also a member of the investment committee for the Credit Opportunities Fund. Additionally, Michael serves as the CFO and Director of ARYA Sciences Acquisition Corp II & III. Prior to Perceptive he was a healthcare trader and analyst at First New York Securities. Michael graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.S. in Business Administration.

Based at Takeda's Cambridge, Massachusetts, R&D campus, Christopher is responsible for oversight of Takeda's Research and Early Development portfolio across Takeda's core therapeutic areas of Gastroenterology and Inflammation, Oncology, and Neuroscience. Since joining Takeda in 2015, Christopher has helped reshape Takeda's pipeline with a strong network of top-tier global collaborators, emphasizing emerging science leveraging a breadth of mechanisms and modalities, including allogenic innate immune cell therapies, antibody-targeted small molecules and oligonucleotides, and cutting-edge biologics.

Christopher is a Ph.D. Immunologist who carried out postdoctoral training with Dan Littman at New York University Medical Center.

Prior to joining Takeda, Christopher spent more than 13 years at Sanofi, where he led global teams advancing novel immunotherapies for cancers and inflammatory diseases.



**Christopher Arendt**

**Chief Scientific Officer and  
Head of Research  
Takeda**





**Karen Bernstein**

**Co-founder and Chairman  
BioCentury**

Karen is Co-Founder and Chairman of BioCentury Inc. and was Editor in Chief from October 1992 to August 2015.

She is a Director at Ovid Therapeutics Inc., which is developing drugs for neurological diseases, and at The Critical Path Institute, a non-profit that leads collaborations to accelerate drug development. She is an advisor to Impact Therapeutics and Wild Biotech. Karen also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Keck Graduate Institute and serves on the Board of Overseers of Scripps Research.

Karen holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford University and a B.A. in Politics and History from Brandeis University, where she served for many years as a member of the Brandeis University Science Advisory Council.

Joan is President of McKesson Canada. As a member of the McKesson Corporation's Executive Operating Team, Joan is responsible for leading McKesson's portfolio of businesses in Canada, including pharmaceutical distribution operations, McKesson Canada Specialty Health and McKesson's network of independent pharmacies (I.D.A., Guardian, Remedy'sRx, The Medicine Shoppe, Uniprix, Proxim, e-commerce retailer Well.ca, and Rexall Pharmacy Group). Joan joined McKesson in 1995 and has held a variety of leadership roles across the company, including operations, sales, marketing and supplier management.

Joan has served on several boards in the healthcare industry, including Healthcare Industry Distributors Association (HIDA), HIDA Educational Foundation and Global Healthcare Exchange. She is also a long-time advisor to the Professional Women in Healthcare (PWH) board. In 2018, Joan was the first recipient of the Anne Eiting Klamar Leadership Award of Distinction by PWH.

Joan received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Business Administration from the University of Iowa.



**Joan Eliasek**

**President  
McKesson Canada**

# JUDGES



**Carl Gordon**

**Managing Partner  
OrbiMed**

Carl is a Managing Partner and leads OrbiMed's private equity team. Carl joined OrbiMed's predecessor firm in 1995 and was a founding General Partner of OrbiMed in 1998. He did his undergraduate work at Harvard (A.B., Chemistry & Physics, 1987), worked at the biotechnology company Imclone Systems (1987-1988), then attained a Ph.D. in Biology from MIT (1993), and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Rockefeller University (1993-1995).

Carl has been fortunate to have been on the ForbesMidas list of top venture capital investors multiple times. He has founded and invested in numerous biotechnology companies and served on many public and private company boards.

When considering investments, Carl looks for innovative technology and creative management teams and believes the key to success is a combination of integrity, hard work, and passion.

Dennis is the original Founder of Aisling Capital LLC. Previously, he served as the Senior Managing Partner. Prior to Aisling Capital, Dennis served as Managing Director of the Life Sciences Investment Banking Group at Chase H&Q (formerly Hambrecht & Quist, "H&Q") for over five years. Prior to joining H&Q, Dennis was a Managing Director in the Healthcare Group at PaineWebber, Inc.

Dennis is a frequent commentator on the industry and has been honored in the "Biotech Hall of Fame" by Genetic Engineering News, named to the Biotechnology All-Stars list by Forbes ASAP, honored as one of the top 50 Irish-American businessmen and cited as one of the top 100 contributors to the biotechnology industry. Dennis received his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and his B.S. in Accounting from the University of Delaware.



**Dennis Purcell**

**Founder and Senior Advisor  
Aisling Capital**



**Camille Samuels**

**Director  
Venrock Boards**

Camille (Cami) focuses on healthcare with an emphasis on biotech, medical devices, and consumer health. Temperamentally an early-stage investor and company helper, Cami currently serves on the board of Cavalry, Iris, and Mahzi. She previously served on the board of several exited Venrock portfolio companies, including Corvidia (sold to Novo), RegenXBio (RGNX), and Spirox (owned by Stryker). Prior to Venrock, Cami was a Managing Director at Versant Ventures where she served on the board (or as a board observer) at many companies including Genomic Health (GHDX/sold to Exact), Jazz (JAZZ), Kythera (KYTH/sold to Allergan), and Novacardia (sold to Merck). During her early career, Cami worked in corporate development at Genzyme, Millennium Predictive Medicine, and Tularik, and she was a management consultant at LEK.

Cami earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology from Duke University and an MBA from Harvard Business School (HBS), where she graduated as a Baker Scholar. She is a Henry Crown Fellow, serves on the board of the EDS Society, as well as the Duke University RTC Council (research translation and commercialization), on the Investment Advisory Committee of Mission BioCapital (MBC), and on the HBS Global Advisory Board.

# TABLE SPONSORS





# THANK YOU

for supporting our annual celebration of Canadian healthcare!

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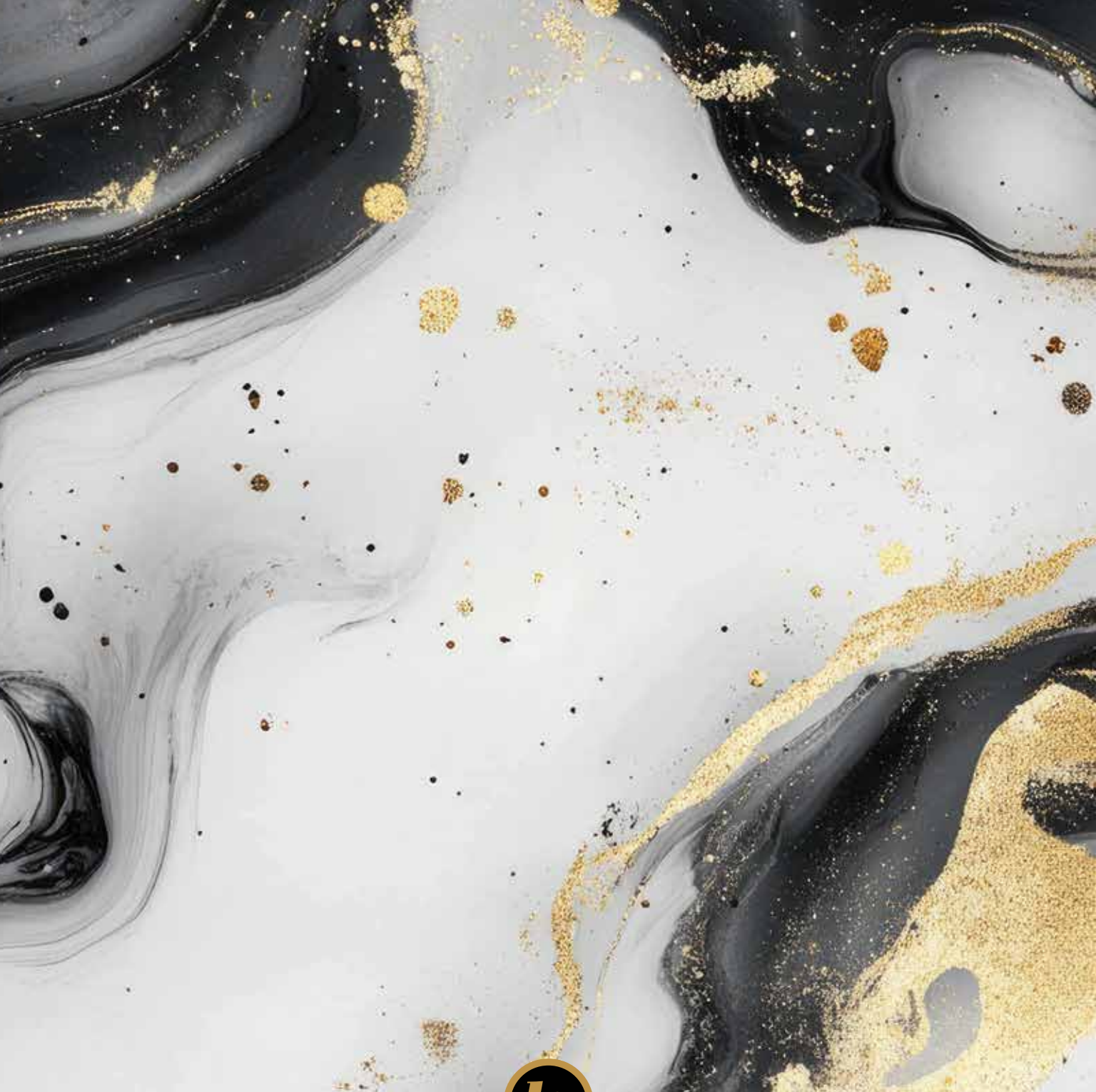




# **SAVE THE DATE**

**BLOOM BURTON & CO.  
HOLIDAY PARTY  
NOVEMBER 26, 2025**





September 25, 2025

The Ritz-Carlton, Toronto  
181 Wellington St. W.